

A large, snow-covered tree stands prominently in the foreground, its branches heavily laden with white snow. The tree's trunk is thick and textured, also covered in a light layer of snow. In the background, a dense forest of smaller trees, also covered in snow, stretches across a valley. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is a serene winter landscape.

The Voice

January and February 2024

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven...

Ecclesiastes 3:1

ABOUT SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS



The place where faith and life connect.
The place with open hearts, open minds,
and open doors.
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 hearts, open minds, and open doors.

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

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

Address corrections: church@shepherdofthehills.org

Worship online at: www.shepherdofthehills.org



We are moving more deeply into a New Year, a time when many choose to make resolutions about exercise and diet and habits of life. By now, many of you may have already abandoned those resolutions, finding them more difficult than they seemed when you wrote them down in December. Life change is hard work!

In December it's easy to think and write: "I'm going to spend 30 minutes in prayer and scripture reading every day." Or "I'm going to give more time, effort and money to reach the world with Jesus' love." Or "I'm going to sign up for that new class." Or "I'm going to work on letting go of that grudge."

Mid January is often a time when we draw a deep breath and say "I'm not doing so well." Or even maybe "I should just give up!" The truth is this: we need help to change our lives; to make better choices; to create habits of worship and prayer and service.

Fortunately, we have help, from the One who came as a baby and was laid in a feed trough: Jesus, who is the Light of the World and the source of hope, joy, peace, possibility, comfort, strength, forgiveness, and new life. If you are feeling discouraged, disheartened, or helpless, it is probably time to turn to him and simply say "I am yours. Do with me what you will. I can't do this on my own."

You may be afraid to do that, because you are expecting the worst. What will he say about the way you have lived, the people you have hurt, the poor choices you have made? The same things he says to and about anyone willing to receive his love:

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. (Matthew 26:27-28)

He didn't say "Come to me, all you who are WORTHY and weary – if you have followed the rules and are in good standing with God." He simply said "Come to me, all you who are weary."

He didn't say "this is my blood of the covenant, poured out for those who are truly sorry; those who confess their sins; those who are worthy of my love; those who follow the rules." He just said "Poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

If you are weary, you are welcome in his love. If you are sinful, you are forgiven by his love. If you need a new start, it has already been given through his sacrifice on the cross.

If you need strength, he has enough. If you need direction, he is the North Star. Turn to him. Surrender your life to his care. Put your 2024 into his care.

You'll be glad you did.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Deborah

"AN INSPIRATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE STORY"



Many years ago there was a little village on a rocky seacoast, where storms often battered and seas were ever treacherous. Many ships were driven onto the rocks by the storms, and the lives of many sailors were lost because of the raging seas. One day the people decided among themselves that they should establish a lighthouse and life saving station on a little peninsula on the coast, to warn ships away from the rocks and to save the lives of those who were cast into the icy waters. They approached the government and began to secure the necessary funds for their project. Soon they set forth and built a tower, and set a beacon in it; they organized a lookout system; and they bought boats and learned how to man them; and soon they were in business. The business of saving lives! Soon the effects of what they were doing became known far and wide. Fewer ships went on the rocks; and when such a tragedy did occur, and the alarm was sounded, the people risked their own lives to rescue those who had been cast into the raging, icy waters. Within a few short years, people came from great distance to study their lighthouse, and to use it as a model.

One day someone suggested that, since they spent so much time at the lighthouse that they should gather there occasionally and enjoy good fellowship. Soon they began to get together (at first infrequently, and then more often) at the lighthouse. In fact, many people began to build their homes near the lighthouse. Then when the lookout sounded the alarm, they were ready to go out. Next, it was decided that if they were going to spend so much time there, they would make the place more comfortable. So arrangements were made to heat the lighthouse. The gray walls were painted a brilliant white. Some of the walls were paneled; rugs were put on the floors to disguise the bare concrete; a fine kitchen was installed with a handsome stove; and generally speaking the lighthouse became a nice place to spend your time waiting for the alarm to be sounded. The lighthouse soon became the center of life in the little town that grew up around it. One night, a fierce storm blew in and many ships were tossed on the jagged rocks, and the men at the lighthouse spent long hours picking sailors from the bitter cold icy waters and taking them to the lighthouse, where they were fed and provided with dry clothing. After the storm subsided and the sailors had all left the lighthouse, there were some men who were angry. It seems the storm had made them leave the comfort of the lighthouse, and go out into the wet, dangerous seas; and they got cold; very cold. The sailors, when they were delivered to the lighthouse, soiled the carpets. The kitchen was a mess, not to mention the stove. After a brief meeting it was first decided that sailors, when they were brought to the lighthouse, should be taken to the basement, not to the nice upper areas.

Sometime later, another storm blew in; and about one half of the men went out in the boats, and again picked sailors from the frigid waters. This time the ship, which had broken apart on the rocks, was from another nation; and the men who manned her spoke another language, and even worse were of a different color. After this storm, a few more men joined those who refused to enter the sea. They decided that men like these did not belong in the lighthouse at all; some said they felt that the lighthouses' job was not supposed to be saving sailors from other lands, because they were so much different. Finally, it was decided that the beacon would be kept lit, but the rescue work would be discontinued. However, a small group disagreed and went down the coast, a short distance, and started a new lighthouse. This small group decided that they should establish the biggest life saving station on the little peninsula, and so they did. Every day they warned ships and sometimes attempted to save lives from the icy water. Fame of the new lighthouse grew and the old lighthouse eventually turned out its beacon. Some people say the beacon can still be seen today in you and I. Oh yes, they also say the small groups running the new lighthouse were those once rescued from the raging seas.



Daniel Gómez



A Season of Lent

Lent is often framed as an experience or season of self-denial, as we come to terms with our selfish desires and mortality. We are always summoned during Lent to change our hearts and lives. We have a few weeks of worship to prepare before the season of Lent is upon us. We are already planning what small groups might study in this season of Lent. Likewise, we are well underway preparing the sermons and worship music for Lent.

It is not a time to compare ourselves with other people. If we do, we might well conclude, using the "standards of hypocrisy" in our text, that we are in pretty good shape! We might think, "After all, I do not practice my piety in front of others, or pray flamboyantly to attract the attention of others, and I certainly do not feign hunger in an attempt to demonstrate my sincerity.

By these criteria, I measure up pretty well!" However, the key verses that should speak to us on this day are Matthew 6:19a; 21: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We need to think honestly about what we seek in life that competes for our commitment to God. Do the treasures that fill our time work against a higher calling of the heart?

As we prepare for our 40-day journey of Lent, we "turn around" (the root meaning of the word "repent") from the distractions of daily noise and focus our attention on listening in a deeper way. The writer Parker Palmer suggests we must listen "to what our life is telling us"—in other words, to listen to the deep wisdom God gave to us as a birthright, connecting to God's purpose once again. On this day we are challenged to do a personal spiritual audit. Ash Wednesday is a serious call to personal reflection.

Ash Wednesday service: February 14, 2024 at 4:00 PM in the Sanctuary

If your busy schedule keeps you from our evening Ash Wednesday service, try driving on through during the day! The Pastors will be waiting with ashes for you in the parking lot area-in front of the Chapel. Pull up and roll down your window to receive the sign of the cross and to hear God's eternal promise from 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.

THANK YOU

Our Sanctuary was beautiful this Advent Season, thanks to the worship committee members and volunteers who set up the trees and other decorations. This project not only requires putting up all the trees and other decorations up, it is necessary to remove them.

Thanks again to those who assisted in getting everything packed and put away. It was a group effort and we thank those who volunteered their time and talent.

We are grateful to all those that were involved.

Thank you,

Patty

Worship Chair



Empowering Hearts and Building Bridges



*The Transformative
Power of SAWS South-
west*

In the vast tapestry
of humanity, there
exists a profound
opportunity for indi-

viduals to come together, not only to serve but to witness the incredible impact of God's love.

SAWS Southwest (Servants at Work), stands as a beacon of hope and compassion, weaving the threads of community, love, and service to create freedom for those in need. **The goal is simple yet profound:** to provide freedom to those who would benefit from a **WHEELCHAIR RAMP** but cannot afford one.

SAWS Southwest was born in 2018 out of a noble cause - to provide freedom to individuals who would benefit from a **FREE** wheelchair ramp. In response, SAWS has crafted a ministry that not only addresses this need but also provides an avenue for volunteers to engage in a life-changing mission.

At the heart of SAWS is the belief that every individual possesses the power to **make a difference**, and it's through simple acts of kindness that profound transformations occur. The organization holds to the idea that no act of service is too small, and every pair of willing hands has the potential to create ripples of change that extend far beyond the immediate moment.

SAWS recognizes the constraints of busy lives and welcomes volunteers who enjoy working with their hands—**men, women and youth over 16 yrs.** This is a unique chance to contribute to a noble cause without large time commitments. Whether you're a weekend warrior or have a few hours to spare during the week, SAWS Southwest accommodates your schedule, making it easy to be a part of something impactful.



"Every pair of willing hands has the potential to create ripples of change that extend far beyond the immediate moment."

Volunteers with SAWS not only engage in constructing wheelchair ramps but also become architects of freedom and bear witness to the transformation of lives. The joy that emanates from clients when they experience the newfound freedom that a wheelchair ramp provides is immeasurable. It's a joy that reverberates through the entire community, creating a sense of unity and shared purpose among volunteers,

SAWS works ecumenically to build high-quality, removable and reusable, pressure treated, ADA compliant wooden ramps for individuals requiring wheelchairs, scooters or walkers for their mobility who cannot afford one on their own. The SAWS ramp system is unique in that it is customizable to fit the space available along with being removable and reusable should the need no longer exist.

The act of building a wheelchair ramp is symbolic of constructing bridges – not just physical structures but bridges that connect hearts, foster empathy, and break down barriers. Through our volunteers SAWS has the opportunity to make a lasting impact, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those they serve.

Consider joining the ranks of SAWS Southwest and be a part of something greater than yourself. SAWS isn't just about building ramps; it's about building a community of compassionate individuals who, through their collective efforts, bring freedom, dignity, and joy to those in need.

But SAWS needs workshop space and volunteers. SAWS is working to

equip workshops in each of the metro areas of Arizona. Current-

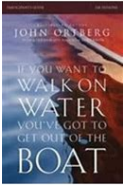
ly, SAWS has workshops in Yuma, Sierra Vista and in the east Metro Phoenix area (Fountain Hills). Workshops in Las Vegas and Tucson are soon to come online and the search is on for west Metro Phoenix and the Flagstaff area.

THIS YEAR, SAWS will have completed 25 ramps around Arizona and are looking to double that in 2024. That can only happen with more volunteers and more workshop space.

To learn more about SAWS, visit saws-southwest.org. It's also the right time to donate to SAWS to receive the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit. OR contact Rev. Cliff Asay at the church.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY CONNECTIONS



If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat

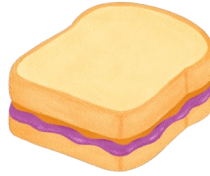
Sundays at 8:45 in the Fellowship Hall Meeting Room. Deep within you

lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the windswept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. Join us for a six-week study to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone.

MONDAY SANDWICH MAKERS

The sandwich makers meet on Monday mornings at 8 AM 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.



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.

SUPPORT GROUP MINISTRY

Depression and Anxiety Group- A support group for those struggling with anxiety or depression. **First & third Mondays from 6:30-8:00 PM** in the Conference Room.

Complicated Grief- A support group for those who have experienced the death of a loved one or friend by suicide or violent death. **Second & fourth Mondays from 6:30- 8:00 PM** in the Conference Room.

If you are interested in joining one, or both, of the groups, contact Pastor Ron at 623-215-3330 on his direct office line.

STRENGTH TRAINING EXERCISE CLASS

The Strength Training Exercise class meets at **9:45 to 10:30 AM, Tuesday and Thursdays in Fellowship Hall**.

Everyone is welcome and the class is free. This is low impact — sit or stand.



MEN'S PRAYER GROUP

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

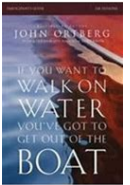
GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Every **Wednesday morning at 10:00 AM** in the Prayer Room. Facilitated by Rev. Ron Friesen. For more information, call the church office.

MIDWEEK CONNECTIONS

If You Want to Walk on Water, You Need to Get Out of the Boat

Wednesdays at 4 PM in Fellowship Hall. Pastor Daniel is leading this 5-week bible study which will end on February 7. Join us for some Soup & Salad!



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.

LIFE AFTER LOSS

You've completed GriefShare, now what? We are starting a new group for individuals who have experienced a loss and have processed the loss but feel stuck. This group will meet on **Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall Prayer Room from 2-4 PM**. This group will focus on getting out and making a difference in your life and someone else's. Contact Julie Killebrew for more information.



GRIEF SHARE

Thursdays from 2 PM—4 PM in Fellowship Hall. Contact Kathy Culliton for more information.



BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

Fridays at 10 AM in the Bell Choir Room

CHOIR REHEARSAL

Fridays at 1 PM in the Choir Room

Contact Ken Goodenberger for more information



NEW POSSIBILITIES

HEALTH CARE DECISIONS: ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

**Tuesday, January 16 10:00 AM
Fellowship Hall Meeting Room**

A living will and medical power of attorney ensures your wishes will be followed and is the best gift you can give your loved ones.



Have You Noticed our Memorial Garden?



It has been refreshed and restored!
Join us for the dedication of our new scattering area on **Sunday, January 21, at 11:15** (as soon as worship ends).

BROWN BAG MEDICATION REVIEW

On **Thursday, January 25, from 11 AM-3 PM**, a Pharmacist will be at SHUMC and will provide a 20 minute personal review of your medications. Bring all of your medications in a brown paper bag to review including all prescription, over-the-counter meds, vitamins, herbals or supplements. Appointment is required! Sign ups are available now.



BOOK CLUB

The Book Club will meet **Thursday, January 18 and February 15 at 10:30 AM** in the conference room. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Jane B.



PAINTING CLASS

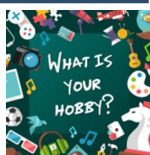
**Tuesday, January 30 at 10 AM
Fellowship Hall Meeting Room**

We are so happy to welcome Julie Larsson back again to teach the class! Some mental health benefits of artistic expression are stress relief, boosts self-esteem and promotes healing. All supplies are provided and the class is free. Sign ups are available now.



HOBBY "SHOW & TELL" TIME

Sunday, January 28 at 11 AM in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to reserve a table to display your favorite hobby or interest to share with others. Bring items representative of your hobby that others can see and you can share with them. Sponsored by Social Shepherds. Questions? Contact Deb or Dave G.



BLOOD DRIVE

The Bloodmobile will be in the church parking lot on **February 2 from 9 AM-1 PM**. The Red Cross has announced emergency blood shortage, please consider donating. Sign up sheets are available now.



FOOD BANK COLLECTION- February 3 & 4



Our church continues to collect food and other products for Valley View Community Food Bank. Please place your canned non-perishable items in the collection bin at the Kiosk. THANK YOU!

INTERESTED IN PLAYING CARDS OR GAMES?

There will be a brief meeting on **Sunday, February 4** following the 10 AM service. We will be meeting to determine what each individual is interested in. Grab a cup of coffee and come to the Fellowship Hall meeting room directly after the service. If you are interested in belonging to one of these groups but will be unavailable for this meeting, please contact Peggy P.



50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We will celebrate couples who have been married 50 years or more (and have not celebrated with us before) on **Sunday, February 18**, at the 10:00 AM service. A reception with cake will be held during coffee hour.



New Lenten Series Begins February 18, 2024 Wrestling with Doubt: Finding Faith

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Whether you're a longtime Christian or someone brand new to faith, this series will lead you to a trust in God that is unafraid of hard questions. We will use a brand new book by Adam Hamilton to give shape to this series through the season of Lent. Join us!



AREA AGENCY ON AGING
REGION ONE, INCORPORATED



HEALTHY LIVING

Feel better
and enjoy
LIFE!

Matter of Balance

Managing Concerns About Falls

A Matter of Balance is a series of eight classes specifically designed to reduce the fear of falling and improve activity levels of older adults. Trained coaches use practical coping strategies such as group discussions, problem solving and exercises to improve strength, coordination and balance. This eight-week class includes Workbook and Elder Resource Guide.

Take control – Get back to being your best.

**Shepherd of the Hills United
Methodist Church
13658 W Meeker Blvd
Sun City West
Feb 28 thru April 17
10:00am-12:00pm
Fellowship Hall**

Space is limited!
Please call the number below
for questions regarding
registration:
623-584-2280



A MATTER OF
BALANCE
MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAYS

COMMUNITY FOOD BANKS FACING UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND FOR HELP!

Jesse Ramirez, founder and president of Valley View Food Bank, says that in one day he received more than 160 calls on his emergency phone from people desperate for assistance. The food bank is seeing as many as 500 clients per day, many of them who have never asked for help before.

Every January, the Missions Team at SHUMC offers the congregation an extra opportunity to help those in our area who are food insecure. There are more folks than we realize. Souper Bowl Sunday runs through January. Please bring pantry stable foods. Anything that can contribute to the making of a big pot of yummy soup: Vegetables, beans, pasta, tomato sauce, broth, canned meats. Crackers or other sides to go along with soup are also appreciated.

Please help the Missions Team meet an urgent need in our community. Collection baskets will be placed in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall during the month of January. The collected items will be divided between the Valley View Food Bank and St. Mary's Food Bank.



RUMMAGE SALE NEWS!!



The final proceeds of the 2023 Rummage Sale amounted to \$14,192! After all expenses, the Rummage Sale folks were able to provide the Trustees with a substantial sum of money to be used as needed for the church. \$1,000 was also given to the Missions Team to jumpstart the monetary collection for Circle the City Kindness Kits which will happen in the spring. Congratulations and Thanks to

everyone who participated in the Rummage Sale last fall.

Drop-offs for this year's Rummage Sale will be starting February 20 and 21 between 8 AM and 1 PM, the container doors will be open for donations. Please place your donations inside the containers. If you need help unloading your car please phone the office when you arrive at the containers and Shawn will come help. Remember, we are NOT taking furniture this year. If your donation is too large to fit in a passenger car, we will not be able to accept it.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



15 Bev B.	26 Esther F.
15 Daphne G.	29 Paul P.
20 Carol B.	30 Linda V.
24 Karen D.	31 Sam L.

We need your permission to print your name and the day of your birthday and/or anniversary. Contact the church office by phone or email to set this up.



HEARTSAVERS

Did you know that SHUMC has a team trained in CPR and has a plan to respond to any emergency that should happen during an event at the church? Heartsaver volunteers are primarily members and staff who have been certified by the American Heart Association to respond to someone having sudden cardiac arrest during the first minutes before paramedics arrive. Volunteers are trained in CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and the use of AED (automated external defibrillator). The goal is to have one or two Heartsaver volunteers available to respond to a medical emergency at each one of our worship services and other major SHUMC events.



February 24 and 25 will be Heartsavers weekend. Take some time to get to know your Heartsaver volunteers and learn about their roles in helping keep you safe. There will also be information about other health related topics and you can get your blood pressure taken during Fellowship Hour after services.

We also need new recruits! If you are interested in becoming a Heartsaver, please notify Julie Killebrew, Health Education Facilitator. We will be having CPR recertification classes soon and education on the new AED devices that have recently been purchased.

CALLING ALL CITRUS GLEANING VOLUNTEERS



Each year volunteers from SHUMC and PRIDES partner to glean citrus from homes in Sun City West. This is the 7th season of this volunteer partnership in service! Gleaning teams work together to pick oranges, grapefruit and lemons for St. Mary's Food Bank. The fruit is then distributed in food boxes to families and individuals through the food bank. Home owners and HOA groups who have their trees gleaned also make a donation to the food bank.

Gleaning will start **Wednesday, January 31** and continues every Wednesday for 9 weeks. Last year the group gleaned over 180 trees, resulting in thousands of pounds of citrus for the food bank.

A mission project of this scope requires volunteers. There is no tree climbing and no ladders involved. We use claw like pickers. Jobs are: pickers, muckers (those that pick up the fruit that the pickers pluck and put it in crates) and mules (using handcarts to move the crates to the truck). It is a special type of fellowship, working alongside your church and community friends.

Volunteers meet at SHUMC at 8:00 am to get their assignments with the goal of starting gleaning at 8:30 am. The groups usually finish assigned trees by 11:30.

If you would like to be added or if you have question about gleaning or the gleaning program, call/text Kathy C.

In December, jeans and t-shirts were purchased by the congregation as Christmas presents for 104 children who attend Dysart Community Center after-school and summer programs. The Dysart Center is an organization established to provide basic health and educational resources to local families on the verge of poverty. The Missions Team thanks those who were so generous in contributing to the Jeans N Tees! project.



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH EASTER BASKET COLLECTION



Easter is early this year, March 31! SHUMC United Women in Faith will again help provide Easter baskets for underserved children. We will be deciding in February where the donated baskets will be going. The following information will help guide the making of the baskets. Please bring the completed baskets on or before the March luncheon on March 7.

WHAT SHOULD THE BASKET LOOK LIKE? EASY ANSWER: FULL!

Basically, there should be little room left. Please put more than one item in the basket. Children don't understand that one expensive item can be worth more than several smaller items.

Please use medium baskets. The Dollar Store has a good size.

Remember, all items need to be new. Do not include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, broken or used toys, razors or razor blades or hotel size toiletries. Chocolate candy melts and causes allergic reactions in some children. Nuts are also allergenic and cannot be donated. Anything that looks "pretty new" or only "slightly" used or anything that looks like or can be used as a weapon should not be included.

Thank you for your support and understanding of the rules that need to be followed for the sake of the children.

THESE ITEMS ARE ONLY SUGGESTIONS. ANYTHING A CHILD WOULD LIKE IS GREAT!

crayons	coloring books	anything art related
markers	small toys	comic story books
books	nerf toys	jacks and marbles
sports cards	trading cards	games, small hand held
puzzles	dolls	balls, bubbles
activity books	match box cars	Beanie Babies
pens and pencils	game cards	candy
jump ropes	hair items	Christian items, crosses, jewelry

******REMEMBER, IF ANYTHING REQUIRES BATTERIES, PLEASE INCLUDE THEM**



UNDIES SUNDAYS

Kids living in crisis don't have access to new underwear. Oftentimes they have nothing or wear ill fitting or worn out garments. Help give these children go into the world with renewed self- esteem and confidence to learn! The Missions Team at SHUMC will be collecting underwear, diapers and socks for children and adults during the month of February. The donated items will be given to UMOM and Wesley Centers and the Justa Center. Please bring NEW underwear and socks, all sizes and place them in the baskets in the Narthex the Chapel or in Fellowship Hall during February. Diapers for all infants, toddlers, children and adults are also appreciated. If you decide to donate adult diapers, please make sure they are the brief style, not the tab style. Thanks!

SPOTLIGHT ON: Bettye P.



Bettye P. has loved music all her life. She was a music major at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music and at Arizona State University and taught piano at a studio in Phoenix. Bettye sang and danced in many musicals, often as the lead, including in a group that became the first Light Opera Company in Phoenix.

Bettye met her husband Jack at ASU and they were married a few years later. Jack served in the military and then worked for GMAC. The couple was moved by his work to at least six other states. Bettye continued to sing in groups in each of their new homes.

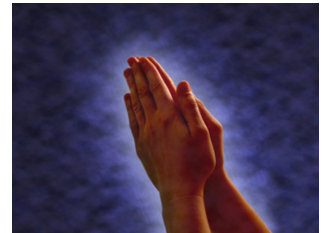
After retirement, the couple lived in a house on a lake in Minnesota during the summers and in Sun City West in the winters. They met Rev. Franklin Greene at Shepherd of the Hills Church and found their church home. Bettye and Jack were blessed with three children, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Jack passed away in January, 2022.

Bettye sang in the choir at SHUMC for many years and sits in a pew on the side of the church near the choir. She loves Ken Goodenberger! She also enjoys the sermons because they address issues of everyday life. Bettye has been a member of the Miriam Circle. Outside of the church, Bettye is a member of the Razzle Dazzle Darlin's, a group that meets monthly at a member's home or at a restaurant. She is also a member of an Appetizer and Dessert Club. She is truly a people person.

PRAYER NOTES

Creative prayer ideas that are taken from Dr. Terry Teykl's book on Pray the Price. At the end of the book he lists 101 creative prayer ideas. Here are a few of them.

1. Make a list of your blessings and simply thank the Lord.
2. Specifically ask the Lord to give you a regular prayer time.
3. Start a notebook with written reflections of your prayer moments.
4. Read a daily devotional guide such as the Upper Room.
5. Find a special prayer place for your time with God.
6. Attend a prayer vigil.
7. Ask a lay person to pray with you. Go a pray with a prayer minister after service.
8. Pray for the unchurched.
9. Do a prayer walk through your neighborhood or do drive-by praying.
10. Find the names of families on your street that do not attend church and pray for them each week.



Blessings,
Bill and Linda W.

CONNECT WITH US

Use your mobile phone camera and hold over the QR Code

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE



FIND US ON FACEBOOK

CHURCH CALENDAR



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



United
Women
in Faith



WINTER GREETINGS FROM UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

What a blessing it is to thank you for your support this past year and let you know of the many things we accomplished. Our purpose is to support women, children and youth around the world. We have a pledge drive each January and the funds from this are sent to the national office to do this very thing. In 2023 we were able to send \$5300. We also have 2 special offerings each year: Prayer and Self Denial in the Spring and World Thank Offering in the Fall. In 2023 we raised over \$2000 to be designated to these special funds. Our lunch monies and monies from our Fritter Bar help us support our local charities. And we have you to thank for the funds from our Mission Candle, this past year, bringing in more than \$2500. These funds continue to enable us to sponsor more local and national causes.

From all of these, in 2023, we were able to give away nearly \$6000 to eighteen agencies. Again, thank you for helping us help others! A favorite project this past year was to sponsor children that attend the Wesley/Golden Gate after school program, so each would receive at least 2 Christmas gifts from our members. A shopping project of love! We thank the anonymous donor who left us a "huge" extra bag of toys too!

Our membership has grown and we have more than 70 Sisters in Christ who are loving and generous. It has been my pleasure to lead this group the past 7 years, and now I will be moving aside to the treasurer's job. Under the new leadership of Julie Killebrew, I know we will continue to invite all women who attend here at Shepherd to be a part of this hard-working group.

I hope many will step forward and join us at our February luncheon to be held, February 1. Our guest speaker will be from DOVES- Area Agency on Aging. (DOVES helps survivors of late-life domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse). Sign-ups will be January 21 and 28. We hope to see you there.

Submitted by Sandy B.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WEEKEND

Each year UWF sponsors a weekend of services at SHUMC. This year, **February 10 and 11** have been chosen to highlight the Women in Faith organization. Special guest speaker will be Dean Scheinert, Executive Director of the Justa Center, he will tell us about all the exciting things that are going to be happening at the Justa Center this year.

As many of you know, the Justa Center provides needed services to homeless seniors in Phoenix. These folks are OUR contemporaries. We could be them. SHUMC has developed a dedicated relationship with the center that will hopefully continue and grow in the future.

United Women in Faith are asking for the congregation's help in collecting hygiene supplies on the weekend of February 10 and 11. This would include personal hygiene items in addition to laundry detergents and household cleaning products. Donated supplies can be brought to any church service during the weekend of February 10 and 11. Dean will take them with him after the last service on the 11th.

Thank you for all the support you give to United Women in Faith as we strive to expand concepts of mission through the global ministries of the church.

Julie Killebrew



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).



WAYS TO GIVE

1. Drop a check by the office (or mail it);
2. Go to 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.

MONETARY DONATIONS FOR THE JUSTA CENTER



A \$10.00 donation will buy a sandwich for 25 friends. A \$20.00 donation will buy a sandwich 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), by mailing or dropping off a check in the office or by debit or credit card by calling Julie Calvert.

Thank you for your generosity!

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 printed in the announcements and on a slide, but read only at the 4 PM and 10 AM services.

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.





13658 W. Meeker Boulevard

Sun City West, AZ 85375-3700

DATED MATERIAL PLEASE
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THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE
January and February 2024
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ONLINE
www.shepherdofthehills.org

4:00 PM, Saturdays	Sweet Hour of Prayer Weekly Communion	Chapel
8:30 AM, Sundays	Informal Praise Communion 1st Sunday of the Month	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 Communion weekly during Lent	Sanctuary