

The Shepherd's Voice

April 2021



-We are building teams for the UMOM Virtual Scavenger Hunt to end Homelessness. The hunt will take place on May 1st, 2021. If you have a smart phone and would like to participate please go to <https://umom.org/special-events/> Follow the instructions to register and join a team. Our team name of course is Shepherd of the Valley UMC. If you don't want to participate in the hunt but would like to sponsor our team you can do so online or by sending your check to the church and designate it for the UMOM Scavenger hunt.

Holy Week services:

Maundy Thursday – There will be a pre-recorded meditation from Pastor Janet.

Good Friday – There will be a Pre-recorded service which will be available on YouTube.

An early in-person service at 10 am and a second in-person service at 6 pm for those that couldn't make the 10 AM service.

Easter Sunday – regular service at 10:30 followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the Kids.



When viewing online worship, Please fill in the lines for attendance. Thank You.

Pastor's Note

Is It Time for a New Bible?



When was the last time you read your Bible? For some of you, it may have been just a couple of hours ago. Some of you might not remember the last time you picked it up, but you know it's around here somewhere.

If you are not reading your Bible on a regular basis, you might want to ask yourself, "Why?" Most people don't like to admit it, but they have a hard time understanding it and finding meaning in it. Your grandmother's Bible or the one you received when you were confirmed certainly have sentimental value for you, but if the print is too small or the formal language isn't familiar, you might consider getting another Bible that is a better fit for you.

First of all, is the translation of the Bible you are reading understandable? Does it speak to you? When I returned to church as a young adult, I went to a Christian bookstore to get a Bible and I was overwhelmed by all the different choices. I opted for the New King James Version thinking that it would be the most authentic, and I assumed the "New" part meant that the language would be easier to understand. It wasn't.

I was introduced to "The Message" translation when I was involved in a Bible Journaling group. I began to notice my pastor using it frequently too. I appreciated the contemporary language that really helped me to make sense of what I was reading. It was during this time of journaling and reading from The Message translation, that I grew in faith and understanding more deeply and rapidly than at any other time in my life. I remember one time I was feeling particularly pulled in different directions by my job, family and church obligations. I prayed for God's guidance. That day's reading began with Romans 12:1. This is how I read it in The Message (MSG) Translation: "So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering." That was exactly what I needed to hear at that moment. I know it would not have impacted me the same way if I'd read it from the New King James Version (NKJV): "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service."

The United Methodist Church does not have an "official" version or translation of the Bible, but their publishing house prefers the Common English Bible (CEB) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). The Common English Bible has become my favorite. It uses contemporary language like the Message, but it's translated verse by verse instead of being paraphrased like The Message is. Our pew Bibles are the NRSV. Some people prefer them because they are familiar. My mom likes the formal language of the King James Version (KJV) because it's more poetic and it's what she grew up with. I also refer to the New International Version (NIV) occasionally.

The bottom line is, your Bible should be a good fit for you. Do you need a large print version or an audio version? Maybe a red-letter Bible that shows the words Jesus spoke in red would be helpful. Maybe a study bible that has a short commentary explaining the verses at the bottom of each page would be a good idea.

There are also great online resources such as biblegateway.com which allows you to look up verses online and view them in multiple versions. The app, YouVersion, allows you to do the same thing, and it offers various reading plans that help with the next challenge of Bible reading; What should you read? And where should you start? But that is a topic for another day. I would love to talk with you about your regular Bible reading and find out what works for you and answer any questions you may have. Please contact me. I look forward to our conversations.

In Christ's Love, **Pastor Janet**

Retirement Party for Nancy Cushman: After 28 years as District Superintendent for the Southwest Conference. We will be celebrating in these two ways.

April 25 – 2:00-4:00 PM

Decorate your vehicle for a drive-by event at Dove of the Desert UMC, 7201 W Beardsley Glendale, AZ. There will be a place for you to give a card to Nancy. We ask that you have a 3x5 card or a piece of paper with your name so your presence can be announced. (Don't forget to wear your mask.)

May 23 2:00 – 3:00PM, Join a Zoom celebration honoring Nancy. You won't want to miss this interactive time of sharing. Click Here to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Celebration.

Nancy requests no gifts, instead you are invited to contribute to a fund to purchase medical equipment for Hope for the Hopeless in her name. Donations, payable to Desert Southwest Conference with Hope for the Hopeless in the memo line, may be sent to the Desert Southwest Conference, West District, P.O. Box 32830, Phoenix, Arizona 85064

Hope for the Hopeless rescues, rehabilitates, reconnects abandoned and orphaned children in Ethiopia.

Contact Carla Whitmire, cwhitmire@dscumc.org, for more information.

Lay Servant Ministries

Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century

This is Advanced ZOOM

class is taught by Pastor Linda DeAtley from Lakeview UMC in Sun City.

Two ZOOM classes will be offered in October, one during the day and one evening class.

We are trying to reach more people offering both day and evening classes.

These classes are THREE Wednesdays in a row.

*** This is a NEW format for classes we are trying*** With COVID 19 here, we believe that the future of in- person classes will not be possible for quite some time.

We want all of you to be safe and will endeavor, through ZOOM classes to provide the same high quality Lay Servant Ministry Classes we have always provided in the West District.

To register for the classes go to:

<https://dscumc.org/layservant-ministries-training-sessions/>

The class is \$15.

If you have to cancel or postpone you will get a credit for a future class.

There will only be twelve (12) students per ZOOM class so please register as soon as possible.

The book you need to purchase and read completely before class begins is

Aging and Ministry in the 21st Century .

It is available at Cokesbury.com or Amazon.

The Daytime Session is: Wednesday October 6, 13, and 20, 8:30 am to Noon.

The Evening Session is: Wednesday – October 6, 13, and 20, 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Meeting

The Basic Course : Introduction to Lay Ministry

This Basic ZOOM class is taught by Jeannie Ward, the West District Lay Leader from Prescott Valley UMC. Two ZOOM Classes will be offered in late August, one during the day and one evening class. register for the classes go to: <https://dscumc.org/layservant-ministries-training-sessions/> The class is \$15.

There will only be twelve (12) students per ZOOM class so please register as soon as possible. The book you need to purchase and read completely before class begins is Lay Servant Ministries (the Participant Book).

It is available at Cokesbury.com or Amazon (also in e-book formats).

The Daytime Session is: Wednesday to Friday– August 25, 26, and 27, 8:30 am to Noon.

The Evening/ Saturday Session is: Thursday and Friday, August 26 & 27, 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Saturday Morning Class : August 28, 8:30 a.m. to Noon

Leading Bible Study

This Advanced ZOOM class is taught by long time Bible Teacher Eli Reeves from Lakeview UMC in Sun City .

To register for the classes go to:

<https://dscumc.org/layservant-ministries-training-sessions/>

The class is \$15.

There will only be twelve (12) students per ZOOM class so please register as soon as possible.

The book you need to purchase and read completely before class begins is

Biblical Interpretation: A Roadmap.

It is available at Cokesbury.com or Amazon.

The Daytime Session is: Wednesday to Friday – July 14, 15, and 16, 8:30 am to Noon.

The Evening Session is: Wednesday to Friday – July 14, 15, and 16, 5:30 to 9 pm.

Blessings,

Betty Stewart

West District Director

Lay Servant Ministries

bettyboop491@cox.net

Cell # 480- 658- 7713

Lay Servant Ministries

April 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH on-line video devotional for Maundy Thurs.	Good Friday 10 am & 6 pm in-person Devotional or on-line pre-recorded	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30 am Worship In-Person Followed by Easter Egg Hunt & On-Line Live Stream			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream			1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
2	3	NOTES				
10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream						

Worship has now restarted in the Sanctuary as well as outside.
Masking and Social Distancing are required.
Please bring your own chair for outside seating. We hope to see YOU soon!



Anniversaries

Jay & Jean Shaw	1
Ernie & Rhonda Cheetham	12
Tim & Sharon Thies	18
Ian & Birgit Kerr	22

Birthdays

Ian Kerr	1
Winnie Hatcher	11
Don Boucher	15
Tim Thies	21
Sharon Thies	28

IS YOUR NAME MISSING?

**We'd Love to recognize YOU on your special day!
Submit Your Birthday Date or Anniversary
to the office**



April Showers

Bring

May Flowers

Shepherd of the Valley UMC

3039 W. Cactus Rd.

Phoenix, Arizona 85029

602-942-9288

Pastor Janet Culbertson

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www.shepherdofthevalleyphoenix.org

Bishop Robert Hoshibata, residing UMC Bishop

Nancy Cushman, District Superintendent