

December 2024

Shepherd's Voice



Wishing everyone a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, putting Christ first in our celebrations. Christ is born to save us!

Happy Birthday!

Happy Anniversary!

Donald H	4 th	Denise H	20 th	Claire and Srinivasan	14 th
John D	9 th	Kathy A	23 rd		
Liam C	11 th	Ava B	23 rd	Femi and Tinu	23 rd
Jane C	15 th	Claire S	24 th	Tom and Suzanne	29 th
Tom M	19 th	Deb G	26 th		
Wanda C	20 th	Lynn O	30 th		

If you would like to be included in the celebration of your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office or Karen B and we will include you in the newsletter. Thanks.



December Prayer Focus for the Desert Southwest Conference Churches



Mingus Mountain Camp
Justa Center, Phoenix
Wesley Community & Health



Financial Information



	October	January - October
Income:	\$5,908.66	\$95,450.76
Expense:	\$8,789.55	\$101,349.53
Total:	\$(2,880.89)	\$(5,898.77)

Save The Dates

Please submit items for the newsletter to Karen by the **17th** of the month.

Advent worship series is titled **Boundless**, beginning December 1st.

December 4th Cactus Book Club at 6pm in FH. Reading Lady Ton's Circle of Friends by Lisa Lee

December 6th Fun Friday Bingo at 6pm. Come to win fabulous Prizes!

December 8th Martha's Circle Christmas sale. Before and after the Sunday worship service.

December 10th Lake Biltmore Block watch – Gathering at 6:30pm (firepits, cookies, and warm beverages)

December 14th Cookie and White Elephant gift exchange at the pastor's house at 2 pm. All are invited. An address will be provided when you sign up to attend. Sign up is in the narthex. There will not be a Fellowship Breakfast this month. Come to the fun at the pastor's house at 2pm instead.

December 15th Last day to bring your Angel Tree items for the adopted families to the church. Angel Trees are in the narthex on the table.

December 19th **Blue Christmas** at 4pm. A Special Service for all who are grieving during the holidays.

December 24th Christmas Eve service at 4pm.

December 29th Pajama Sunday. Come to church relaxed in your PJs. Puppet Mania will perform.



This Advent series focuses on the second readings of each lectionary week as framed by the traditional New Testament readings found in the Gospel of Luke. The thread throughout the epistle passages offers us a fresh encounter with the familiar themes of joy and anticipation. In a culture saturated with the pursuit of material abundance, especially during this season, this series offers the space to consider how we might recover the sense of wonder of God's boundless presence as love, joy, peace, hope, spirit, and life, even as we rehearse once more the anticipation and longing for God's entrance into the world.

**Advent and Christmas Series
BOUNDLESS**

We realize that God offers us so much more than we could ever want or need.

- December 1 - Boundless Love
- December 8 - Boundless Joy
- December 15 - Boundless Peace
- December 22 - Boundless Hope
- December 24 – Boundless Spirit
- December 29 - Boundless Life
(Puppet Mania Performs / Pajama Day!)

Office Hours during the Holidays:
 Open 12/24/24 12-4pm
 Closed 12/25/24 and 12/26/24
 Closed 1/1/25
 Open 1/2/25 12-4pm

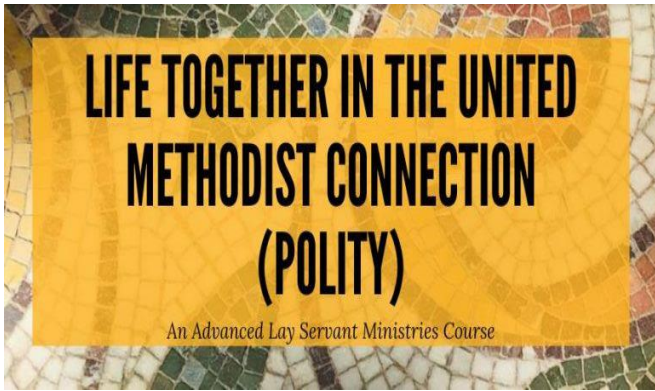


**Thursday, December 5, 2024
5-8 PM
(The movie will begin at 5:30 PM)**

Harkins Arrowhead
 16046 N. Arrowhead Fountains
 Peoria, AZ 85382

Tickets are \$20 each

<https://sytaaz.org/tbcpe-tickets>



LSM: Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (Polity) – Zoom, February 15, 22, and March 1, 2025

by [DSC Communications](#) |

The LSM Course, “Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (Polity)” will be offered via ZOOM on Saturdays **February 15, 22, and March 1, 2025**, from **8:30 a.m. to 12 noon**. This is an Advanced Lay Servant Ministries course and qualifies as the Polity requirement for the Lay Speaker courses. This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church. Using the Wesleyan theological frame—connection—students understand United Methodism’s polity and organization as the interrelationship of our beliefs, mission, practice, and organization. Functional in nature, these aspects of the denomination facilitate our mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world.

The cost for this course is **\$15.00** and is payable upon registration. Either register and pay online or call the Conference LSM Director at 317-730-0162 to complete the registration and send the payment to DSCUMC Treasurer, PO Box 32830, Phoenix, AZ 85064 with instructions to deposit into the Conference LSM account.

Once you register for this course, you will receive a confirmation with a link to ZOOM, a link to purchase the book and other information.

If you have further questions, you may contact Susan Bowers, the Conference LSM Director at email layservants@dscumc.org .

[A PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH](#)



“Now faith, hope, and love remain...and the greatest of these is love.”

1 Corinthians 13:13 CEB

Greetings,

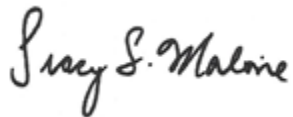
May the grace of God and the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirits. Amid the change and uncertainty that have resulted from the recent U.S. elections, and the ways in which these matters will impact the whole world, we remember that we are held by the enduring power of God’s love and the call to be agents of that love in the world.

We find ourselves at a critical historical juncture that future generations will scrutinize. It presses upon the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church, a worldwide body, to speak and act with moral clarity, guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ and our commitment to justice and compassion for all.

We affirm the inherent dignity of all God's children. As our [Social Principles](#) remind us, "*God calls all members of the human family to recognize and protect the dignity and worth of all people.*" The lessons of history teach us the dangers of silence in the face of threats to human rights. Therefore, we cannot remain silent. We call upon all United Methodists to exercise their faith and to pray, speak, and act for justice and peace.

Our baptismal vows call us "to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves." We therefore reject rhetoric, policies, and actions that demean or discriminate against any of God's children and will be vigilant in defending the rights of the vulnerable and speaking out against oppression.

To people of all generations, especially our young, who yearn for a more just and inclusive world, your vision and passion give us hope. We commit to working alongside you to build the beloved community that reflects God's kingdom on earth. In the days ahead, we will continue this vital work uninterrupted and with renewed vigor. And we commit ourselves to prayer for our political leaders around the globe.



Bishop Tracy S. Malone
President – Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church



Blood Drive screening at the church in Fellowship Hall. December 14th. Appointments scheduled. Online or by phone. More information on flyer in Narthex bulletin board.

This time of year, is a festive time for us to enjoy time at our family and friends' gatherings. There are many in our community that do not have the joy of the holiday season. Many consider suicide because of loneliness, despair or mental health issues. If you know or think you know of someone who has stated or you think they are considering suicide, there is help for them. Throughout the US there is a **three-digit number 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline for them to call to get help from a trained mental health professional. It is modeled after 911 Emergency Line and is designed to be a memorable and quick number. 988 will never be a busy signal and they will never put you on hold. You will get help.**

The Biden administration has invested more than \$400 million in beefing up crisis centers and other mental health services to support the 988 system. Please refer this number to someone in need in a loving way and you could save a life.

December 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time</p>			<p>Bible Study 11:00 P.O. Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom Cactus Park Precinct Board Rm 1</p>	<p>Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Martha Circle 10:30 rm 1 Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 7:30 pm, FH</p>	<p>Fun Friday 6pm</p>	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>Martha's Circle Sale Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time</p>	<p>Girl Scouts 5:30p</p>	<p>LBBW Gathering 6:30pm outside/fire pit.</p>	<p>Bible Study 11:00 P.O. Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom</p>	<p>Martha Circle 10:30 am Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 7:30 pm, FH</p>		<p>Jewelry Making with Santee, rm 1 10 am - 4 pm Cookie Exchange Pastor's House aprox 2 pm</p>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>Board meeting 12pm Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time</p>			<p>Bible Study 11:00 P.O. Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom Cactus Community Alliance Board mtg.6pm rm 1</p>	<p>Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Blue Christmas 4pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 7:30 pm, FH</p>		<p>Kugintl.com FH Jewelry Making with Santee, rm 1 10 am - 4 pm</p>
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time</p>	<p>Girl Scouts 5:30p</p>	<p>Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 4pm</p>	<p>Merry Christmas! Office CLOSED</p> 	<p>Office CLOSED 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 7:30 pm, FH</p>		<p>Jewelry Making with Santee, rm 1 10 am - 4 pm</p>
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
<p>Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time</p>						
5	6	NOTES	<p>Worship is available In-Person and On our YouTube channel SOVUMC. Masks are Encouraged, but not Required unless trends change. Enjoy coffee and snacks after the worship service.</p>			

Leadership Team Members

Chair	Suzanne	Pastor	Janet	Treasurer	Don
SPRC	Femi	Finance Sec	Wanda	Fac/Sec	Suzanne
Lay Leader	Randal	Member	Jack	Member	Vonnie
Member	Sandee	Member	Betty		

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602-758-3473

Pastor Janet Culbertson SOVUMC@hotmail.com

www.shepherdofthevalleyphoenix.org

Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, UMC Bishop

Reverend Javier Olivares, District Superintendent