

# December 2025

## Shepherd's Voice



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### Happy Birthday!

### Happy Anniversary!

Donald H	4 <sup>th</sup>	Denise H	20 <sup>th</sup>	Femi and Tinu	23 <sup>rd</sup>
John D	9 <sup>th</sup>	Kathy A	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tom and Suzanne	29 <sup>th</sup>
Liam B	11 <sup>th</sup>	Ava B	23 <sup>rd</sup>		
Jane C	15 <sup>th</sup>	Deb G	26 <sup>th</sup>		
Wanda C	20 <sup>th</sup>	Lynn O	30 <sup>th</sup>		

If you would like to be included in the newsletter to celebrate your birthday and/or anniversary, please contact the office or Karen B.

Thank you.



Please submit items for the newsletter to Karen by the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.

# December Prayer Focus for the Desert Southwest Conference Churches

Trinity UMC, Yuma, AZ

Willowbrook UMC, Sun City, AZ

## Annual Conference Amendments to the Constitution June 2025

Four amendments were ratified to the UMC Book of Discipline at the Annual Conference in June.

1. Regionalization. A set of amendments to create new regional conferences that will each have equal power to adapt portions of the BOD within their respective regions.
2. Inclusiveness of the Church. An amendment to add the words “gender “and “ability” to the Paragraph 4, Article 4 of the UMC Constitution to categories that cannot be used to exclude membership in the United Methodist Church.
3. Racial Justice. An amendment to strengthen Article V of the UMC Constitution by explicitly recognizing the church’s role in combating racism, colonialism, white privilege, and white supremacy.
4. Educational Requirements for Clergy. General Conference voted to amend Section VI of the UMC Constitution, which the educational requirements for the clergy members of annual or provisional conferences who are eligible to vote for clergy delegates to the General Conference.

These constitutional amendments votes garnered more than the required two-thirds majority become effective immediately.

If you would like more information, please go the link [ResourceUMC.org/amendments](https://ResourceUMC.org/amendments) and [ResourceUMC/regionalization](https://ResourceUMC.org/regionalization).

If you would like a paper copy of the article from the Desert Southwest Conference Council of Bishops newsletter, please contact Trina.

Nation’s Best CPR is expanding their CPR, AED (automatic external defibrillator), First Aid, and Basic Life Support training classes into the Phoenix area in 2026. American Heart Association and American Red Cross certifications will be offered. We will host several classes for the community at the church. Classes include “hands on “practice on mannequins. You can use a table instead of the floor if needed. Jan 6<sup>th</sup> - 3pm - 6pm, January 7<sup>th</sup> - 9am -12pm. We hope to have at least 9 students per class. More information to come.

## Email Phishing Scam Alert from Desert Southwest Conference:

Recent reports of fraudulent emails from someone posing as Bishop Rapanut with an email that does not end in descumc.org. This time of year, is primetime for email and text phishing scams. I (Karen) received an email supposedly from Pastor Janet asking me to purchase \$1800 worth of gift cards for her to give to her staff. I chatted with (her?) to get more information. Since she's never asked me to spend any money with the promise of her reimbursing me, I became suspicious and called her. It was not her email, and so I deleted the email. They checked back with me a few more times and I kept deleting their email. Eventually, they quit contacting me. Be careful, they had her name, my name and the church's address. You can report the fraud to the Federal Trade Commission. They collect the information, and it can be used by law enforcement in any future cases.

Dear Friends,

I want to thank you for the very special gift you presented to me during Pastor Appreciation Month. It is on display in my dining room. I feel encouraged every time I look at it. I also feel so grateful that God has entrusted me with the care of this flock.

As John Wesley would say, I know I am going on to perfection. But, I am certainly not there yet. I thank you for your patience with me as I continue to learn and grow into this calling. This gift, along with another anonymous gift and a card I found in my mail slot, are very affirming for me.

I thank you for your support of my ministry and for your support of Shepherd of the Valley and its missions. Together we can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

God Bless You!

Pastor Janet

### Save The Dates

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** Fun Friday at **6:00pm** in Fellowship Hall for snacks, Grinch Bingo at **6:30pm**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** Christmas Cookie and Gift exchange at Pastor Janet's house at **2pm**

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** Martha's Circle Christmas Sale before and after church.

**December 14<sup>th</sup>** Yoga. **9am, 10am, 5:30pm**. Room 1. Only one date for this month.



**Christmas week:**

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** at 4pm. **Blue Christmas**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** at 4pm. **Christmas Eve service**

Office open on December 24<sup>th</sup>, closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Martha Circle**

**Christmas Sale**

**Sunday, December 7**

**Before and After  
Sunday Service**

**All proceeds benefit  
Shepherd and its missions.**

**Donations gratefully accepted.**

We are collecting new AND used shoes  
You can bring them in or we can pick them up.



**SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> 2025 - MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2026**

**ALL sizes 🐾 ALL kinds 🐾 ALL year**

**CLEAN OUT YOUR OLD  
SHOES AND SUPPORT  
A GOOD CAUSE**



# December 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
1st Sunday of Advent Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Hoziana Ministries 12 - 2 Sanct.			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	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	Fun Friday 6pm	Hoziana Ministries 11 - 1 Sanct. Cookie Exchange 2 pm Pastor's House
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Martha Circle Sale Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Hoziana Ministries 12 - 2 Sanct. Any Time	Girl Scouts 5:30p	LBBW 6:30 pm F.H.	Bible Study 11:00 - 12:30 p.o. Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom Finance Meeting 4:00 pm	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		Hoziana Ministries 11 - 1 Sanct. Private Party F.H. Breakfast Bunch 8:00 am Jewelry Making with Santee, rm 1 12 pm - 4 pm
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Erik's student concert(s) Board Meeting 12N Hoziana Ministries 3:00 Sanct.			Bible Study 11:00 - 12:30 p.o. Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom CPCA 6-7:30 pm Rm1 Lake Biltmore HOA 5:30 - 8:30 pm	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		Hoziana Ministries 11 - 1 Sanct. Jewelry Making with Santee, rm 1 11 am - 3 pm Blue Christmas 4 pm Sanct.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Hoziana Ministries 12 - 2 Sanct.	Girl Scouts 5:30p		Christmas Eve! Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Service 4:00 pm	Merry Christmas! Office CLOSED Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA 7:30 pm, FH		Hoziana Ministries 11 - 1 Sanct. Jewelry Making with Santee, rm 1 12 pm - 4 pm
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Hoziana Ministries 12 - 2 Sanct.			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	Worship is available In-Person and On our YouTube channel SOVUMC. Enjoy coffee and snacks after the worship service.		

## Leadership Team Members

Chair	Karen	Pastor	Janet	Treasurer	Santee
SPRC	Femi	Finance Sec	Nickie	Lay Leader	Randal
Trustee	Jack	Member	Ruth	Member	Denise
Member	Betty				

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Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, UMC Bishop  
Reverend Melissa Rynders, District Superintendent