

# February 2022

## Shepherd's Voice



Happy Valentine's Day 

### Happy Birthday

Diana F	3 <sup>rd</sup>	AJ C	15 <sup>th</sup>
Charlie W	8 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia B	17 <sup>th</sup>
Frank H	10 <sup>th</sup>	Abigail H	18 <sup>th</sup>
Hailey W	13 <sup>th</sup>	Gail R	18 <sup>th</sup>
Michael R	14 <sup>th</sup>		



	Dec	Jan to Dec 2021
Expense:	\$6,169.19	\$85,101.28
Income:	\$9,014.00	\$101,174.89
Total:	\$2,844.81	\$16,073.61



## **“We Agape Because God First Agape(d) Us.” (1 John 4:19 – Sort of!)**

Love! When I think of February, I immediately think of Valentine’s Day. Others might think of that big bowl game. You know, The Super Bowl. Whether you are planning a romantic dinner or picking your favorite foods to eat while watching the game, love is in the air.

“We agape because God first agape(d) us.” I came across Chris Folmsbee’s translation of 1 John 4:19 while reading his book, *The Wesley Prayer Challenge*. In English, we have only one word for love; love! However, in the Greek language, there are at least four words for love.

*Eros* is the word for the romantic love which inspires Valentine’s Day. *Storge* is love of family. *Philia* is the love of football. Okay, no, not really, but *philia* is personal affection or love on a friendship level. Fun fact: *philia* is the root of Philadelphia, the city of brotherly love. Agape love comes from God. It is a perfect love. It is the selfless, giving, unconditional type of active love that God displayed when he sent his son to save us. This display of love shows God’s longing to be in relationship with humanity and to restore creation to wholeness. It also results in a mutual connectedness. As Paul Gonzales says, Agape love is “The love of God for man, and of man for God.” It extends beyond ourselves to others.

This well-known verse from 1 Corinthians gives us a clear picture of what agape love is. **1**

### **Corinthians 13: 1-8, 13**

*13 If I speak in tongues of human beings and of angels but I don’t have love, I’m a clanging gong or a clashing cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and I know all the mysteries and everything else, and if I have such complete faith that I can move mountains but I don’t have love, I’m nothing. 3 If I give away everything that I have and hand over my own body to feel good about what I’ve done but I don’t have love, I receive no benefit whatsoever.*

*4 Love is patient, love is kind, it isn’t jealous, it doesn’t brag, it isn’t arrogant, 5 it isn’t rude, it doesn’t seek its own advantage, it isn’t irritable, it doesn’t keep a record of complaints, 6 it isn’t happy with injustice, but it is happy with the truth. 7 Love puts up with all things, trusts in all things, hopes for all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails....*

*1 Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.*

Remember, agape love extends beyond the loving relationship we share with God to the love of our fellow humans. Although I’m sure there are better examples of agape love, let me share a little story. John and I like to go out to eat on Valentine’s Day. Someone recently gave us a gift card to a nice restaurant, so we decided that we would plan ahead and make a reservation several weeks in advance. Valentine’s Day is on a Monday, but we decided with our work schedules, that Sunday night would be better. So, we made a dinner reservation for Sunday evening, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Guess when the Super Bowl is. Yep! When I discovered that our dinner reservation conflicted with the Super Bowl, I asked John if we should change it. Without hesitation, he said, “No that’s alright. Maybe it won’t be as busy and that’ll be nice.” Now that’s the kind of selfless love that I’m talking about.

All joking aside, agape is the selfless, giving, unconditional, type of active love that places the needs of others above all else. Because God shows us this love, it grows in our hearts, and we can extend that love to others. “We agape because God first agape(d) us.” How will you bless someone with agape love this Valentine’s Day?

Love,

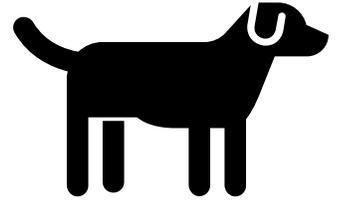
Pastor Janet



Family Friday Fun Night –

February 4 at 6:00 pm.

Pet Parade by Zoom.



We are now back to meeting IN-PERSON while still observing safety protocols! We will of course still be offering the ON-LINE services as well for anyone who isn't quite ready to risk gathering in person.

Our next study (zoom) will be Thursday, Feb 3, 17, 10, 17, and 24. We will be looking at some of the traditional hymns that inspire us during difficult times.

Our Lenten study will meet Thursday, March 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31. We will be reading the book "Who Is This Man." By John Ortberg. More information to come.

LBBW meeting: Feb 9. 6:30 – 7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Topic- Metro Center Light Rail. Speaker – Michael Book, Community Outreach Coordinator Valley Metro. He will be sharing exciting information about the Metro Center revitalization project.

If you have questions, contact [ruth@lakebiltmorebw.com](mailto:ruth@lakebiltmorebw.com)

**Desert Southwest Conference is asking for Fire Disaster Relief Assistance:**

Your church and church groups – youth, seniors, children, men's groups, women's groups, Bible study classes, choirs, mission groups – can assemble disaster resource kits. The Disaster Response Committee needs Fire Relief Buckets and Ash Sifters. If your congregation would like to host (and fund – Ash Sifters cost about \$6 each and Fire Relief Buckets cost about \$60) an exciting day to assemble these needed items. If you would be interested in working on this mission project, please leave your name with the church office. Thank you!

### UMOM Winter Coat Drive

Its not too late to plan for chilly winter temperatures!

UMOM will need *clean* gently used (no repairs needed) coats and jackets in all sizes, from toddler to adult XXL. New coats are always appreciated too! UMOM websites post links to Amazon, Target, and Walmart wish lists. Donations can be brought to church on Sundays, or dropped off during open office hours. Have a large amount of clothing and coats for donation? Please contact Suzanne Shaw for a pickup right at your home!

Dear Shepherd of the Valley Family,

Our friends at Lakeview Elementary have spring break coming up in March. Many families who experience food insecurity rely on free or reduced school breakfasts and lunches to feed their children. During Spring Break, these resources are not available. We at Shepherd of the Valley, are collecting breakfast and lunch items and packing food boxes to send home with some families so they have food throughout that week.

Please see the list below for items that are needed. Remember, children will likely be preparing these meals for themselves. They may not have access to can openers and will likely use a microwave, but not a stovetop to heat food. Foods should be shelf stable so we don't need to refrigerate anything.

If you would like to contribute money towards bread which we will purchase the day before we deliver the boxes, please mark your donation accordingly.

Thank you for your help in impacting our community.

Peace & Grace,

Pastor Janet

Please bring your donations to the church any time before February 27th.

Cereal

Microwavable oatmeal packets

Shelf-stable milk

Microwavable Mac-n-cheese cups

Shelf-stable microwavable meals

**Prepared** tuna packets/cans

Crackers

Peanut Butter

Jelly

Individual serving applesauce or fruit cups.

Granola bars

Individual bags of chips or snacks

100% fruit rolls or fruit snacks

100% fruit juice boxes

\$ toward bread purchase

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” (1 John 3:8)

### **Mark your Calendars for Future Meeting Dates:**

- ✎ March 8<sup>th</sup>. LBBW meeting 6:30 – 7:30 pm Fellowship Hall
- ✎ March 19<sup>th</sup>. Neighborhood Clean Up. Time TBA. Bring protection from the sun. Hat, sunscreen and long sleeve shirt.
- ✎ March 27<sup>th</sup>. Visioning Team Workshop – 11:30 am



# BISHOP'S BRIEFING

## Prayers for Tonga

Many of us have been following the volcanic eruption near Tonga, and instead of worrying about a tsunami affecting our shorelines, our hearts and prayers are going out to the people of Tonga and the Island itself. We have so many clergy and laity who have relatives from Tonga, and reports have been slow as to the damages to the Island and its people. For sure, the concentration of ash and resulting tsunamis have negatively affected the Island.

Please join me in your regular prayers for our Tongan siblings and the physical Island itself. We ask God to watch over the Tongan people, animals, and land. We ask God to move us to send relief in the form of donations as well as these prayers.

May the Island of Tonga know that we hold them in our daily prayers!

Donations for relief can be sent to the Desert Southwest Conference at P.O. Box 32830, Phoenix, Arizona 85064. Please mark any donations with "Tongan Relief" on your check or electronic offering. Electronic donations can be completed at <https://dscumc.org/donate>.

Let us Be the Hope for the Island of Tonga,  
Bishop Grant

# Lay Servant Classes

## Called to Preach

**February 4, 18, & 25 (In Person)**

Sunrise UMC  
12716 N. Frontage Rd Yuma, AZ  
Rev. David Harris – Instructor, AZ

**March 7, 14, & 21 (In Person)**

Gila Mountain UMC  
19234 N 7th Avenue, Phoenix  
Rev. Donna Hughes – Instructor

**April 18 & 25, May 2 (In Person)**

Dove of the Desert UMC  
7201 W. Beardsley Rd., Glendale, AZ  
Rev. David Wasson – Instructor

Come join us in a REQUIRED class for those wanting to become a Certified Lay Speaker and for those wanting to learn more about public speaking and providing pulpit support to their pastor and others in our Conference. This is a class designed for those who have not completed formal preaching training and for others who are called to preach in a pastor's absence. The class is \$15. If you have to cancel or postpone you will get a credit for a future class in the West District. The book you need to purchase and read completely before class begins is – From Pew to Pulpit by Clifton Guthrie. It is available in print for \$15.99 and by Kindle for \$9.99. You can find them at Cokesbury or Amazon.

The classes will be held on Friday's February 4, 18, and 25, 5:30-9:00 PM each day. To register go to:

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

## Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist Polity)

**February 11 & 18 (In Person) 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

Willowbrook UMC

19390 N 99th Ave, Sun City, AZ

Rev. Gary Kennedy & Laurie Lineberry- Instructors

Come join us in a REQUIRED class for those wanting to become a Certified Lay Speaker.

The class is \$15. If you have to cancel or postpone you will get a credit for a future class in the West District. The book you need to purchase and read completely before class begins is – Polity, Practice, and the Mission of The United Methodist Church by Thomas E. Frank.

It is available in print and by Kindle. You can find them at Cokesbury or Amazon.

You will need to commit to both sessions. To register go to: <https://dscumc.org/layservant-ministries-training-sessions/>

We look forward to seeing you at this required in person class for 2022.

Blessings,

Betty Stewart

West District Director Lay Servant Ministries

[bettyboop491@cox.net](mailto:bettyboop491@cox.net)

Cell # 480– 658–7713

# February 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
Worship In-Person & On-Line Live @ 10:30 am followed by ZOOM gathering			12 -4 pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	12- 4 pm Office Hours Hymn study 6:30-8pm zoom 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	6:00 pm Fun Friday (Pet Parade), zoom	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship In-Person & On-Line Live @ 10:30 am followed by ZOOM gathering			12 -4 pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom LBBW meeting 6:30- 7:30pm FH	12- 4 pm Office Hours Hymn study 6:30-8pm zoom 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		Jewelry Making with Sande, rm 1 noon - 4 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship In-Person & On-Line Live @ 10:30 am followed by ZOOM gathering SPRC 12:30 pm			12 -4 pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	12- 4 pm Office Hours Hymn study 6:30-8pm zoom 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship In-Person & On-Line Live @ 10:30 am followed by ZOOM gathering Board mtg 12:30 pm zoom			12 -4 pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	12- 4 pm Office Hours Hymn study 6:30-8pm zoom 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		Jewelry Making with Sande, rm 1 noon - 4 pm
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
Worship In-Person & On-Line Live @ 10:30 am followed by ZOOM gathering			12 -4 pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	12- 4 pm Office Hours 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH		
6	7	NOTES				

In-person Worship has now Resumed.  
We will still be requiring masks and social distancing.

## Shepherd of the Valley UMC

3039 W. Cactus Rd. Phoenix AZ 85029

602-942-9288

sov@sovumc.phxcoxmail.com

Pastor Janet Culbertson

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

Bishop Grant Haglya, Interim UMC Bishop

Reverend Javier Olivares, District Superintendent