

Shepherd's Voice

July 2021

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On July 4th, 1777, the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia was celebrated. The celebration included ringing of bells, bonfires and fireworks. The day was named Independence Day. Happy Birthday America. 245 years old!

Of the 56 who signed the Declaration of Independence, nine died of wounds or hardship during the war. Five were captured and imprisoned, in each case with brutal treatment. Several lost wives, sons, or entire families; one lost his 13 children. Two wives were brutally treated. All were at one time or another, the victims of manhunts and driven from their homes. Twelve signers had their homes completely burned. Seventeen lost everything they owned. Yet not one defected or went back on his pledged word! They proved they made no idle boast when they composed the line *“And for the support of this Declaration with a firm reliance on the protection of divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”*



Bob Dunning	July 4
Jacquelyn Ledbetter	July 7
Irene Neldon	July 13
Norma Dunning	July 13
Janice Stemler	July 22
Nick Kole	July 23



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Hiro and Betty Oshiro	July 11
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AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app, everyday purchases have generated over \$293 million in donations to charities worldwide so far.

AmazonSmile's impact:

- * \$276.51 to Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church*
- * \$262,635,668.36 to all charities in the US
- * \$293,003,584.01 to all charities worldwide

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I'm sure I'm not alone when I recall childhood memories of summertime fun. I grew up on the east coast, so the weather was very different than it is here in Phoenix. Summer was the time of year that people wanted to be outside. There were sprinklers and ice cream, beach days and barbeques. The Fourth of July was always a special event, especially in 1976, the year of our country's bicentennial. Even so, I didn't realize the significance of the celebration in my small town until I was much older. I grew up in Marblehead Massachusetts, a coastal town about 18 miles north of Boston. The town and its people

played a significant role in the American Revolutionary War. For example, Marblehead is the birthplace of the American Navy. The fleet was largely comprised of boats owned by

General John Glover. It was Glover and his 14 Regiment whose hands were on the oars that rowed Washington and the army across the Delaware on Christmas night in 1776.

Marblehead is also home to one of America's most iconic patriotic paintings, "The Spirit of '76." Archibald M. Willard, of Cleveland Ohio painted it for exhibit in Philadelphia during the 1876 centennial celebrations. Thinking back to old stories his grandfather would tell him about fighting in the American Revolution, Willard created the eight-by-ten foot masterpiece. After the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, the original painting was sold to General John Devereux, father of the young cadet who posed for the drummer on the left. Devereux took it to his hometown of Marblehead to honor the memory of the brave men of Marblehead who died in battle on sea and land for their country.

This painting is significant for a few reasons. The years following the Civil War were characterized by mixed feelings, resentment, and reconstruction.

"The Spirit of '76" was a work of art that evoked a shared sense of national unity. We are currently experiencing a similar climate. It is my hope and prayer that our nationwide celebration of Independence Day will help promote unity once again.

One of the most important aspects of the painting is easy to miss. In fact, it often gets cut out completely in reproductions. In the bottom right-hand corner of the image, almost too dark to see, lies a dying soldier who raises his hat to salute as the American flag marches by. His loyalty to the ideals of this country, ideals based on Christian values, is expressed in his dying moments. He represents all the men and women who have paid the price for our freedom. I'm reminded of the phrase, "Freedom Is Not Free." These words are engraved into a wall at the Korean War Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Psalm 33:5 reads, "He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." By our Baptismal Vows, we as United Methodists promise to, "accept the power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever

form they present themselves.” We continue to fight for these ideals. We find hope in God’s love of righteousness and justice. As we celebrate the 245th anniversary of our country’s independence, let’s continue to seek liberty and justice for ALL.

Remember to look for the goodness of the Lord in the people around you, the laughter of children, the refreshment of a dip in the pool, and the memories of summer days gone by. The earth is full of God’s goodness and it’s worth fighting for.

Grace and Peace to You,
Pastor Janet



“The Spirit of ‘76” Archibald M.

by Rev. Nancy Cushman, West District Superintendent

Colossians 3:15 calls us to be a thankful people. As I leave this season of ministry as your district superintendent, I have so many reasons to be thankful. I thank you, the people of the west district, for your love and support throughout this season. I am thankful for the opportunities to come to know so many of you well as we seek to serve Christ and his church together. I am so grateful for Carla Whitmire who has been such a wonderful administrative assistant and partner in ministry. I thank God for Jeannie Ward, our district lay leader and our associate district lay leaders, Joyce Trevolt, John Huie, and Sandy Kerr. They have been such a blessing to me and will continue to lead you and assist with the transition to Rev. Javier Olivares. I thank God for all the clergy leaders and leaders from the laity who have served and are serving on our district boards and committees and for Betty Stewart who leads our Lay Servant Ministry. I am grateful for the clergy in our district and the ways we have supported and cared for each other especially through the pandemic. It has been such an honor to be part of the calls to ministry of so many pastors. I leave with cherished memories that I will treasure and with peace. Javier brings his own special gifts and graces to the district that will be a blessing in this next season of ministry.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you.

With gratitude,

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Melody Beattie Author, Journalist



01-Mar-2021 to 31-May-2021

25 Households

\$54.82 Total Donations

Dear Shepherd of the Valley UMC (FR015),

The Kroger Co. Family of Stores is committed to bringing hope and help to the local neighborhoods we call home. Our stores are on a mission to not just part of, but to help create a stronger community. We recognize that every community has unique causes that need support. Thank you for being such an important organization in our community.

We encourage you to ask your supporters to link their rewards card to your organization. Community Rewards is easy to use, The more your supporters shop with us, the more money your organization will earn!

We are committed to carefully protecting our customer's personal information. In order to meet their expectation of privacy, we have adopted a simple policy to never share a customer's personal information. Our privacy policy applies to Community Rewards participation as well.

Thank you for being such an important organization in our community,

Community Rewards Staff

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Lay Servant Ministry Classes and Why You Need Them!!

The Lay Servant Ministry Program is a Christian education program intended to provide support services to all lay adults in The United Methodist Church. In the West District, we are doing our classes by **ZOOM** to reach our geographically spread-out West District and to avoid COVID-19 complications.

Each month a different class is offered via **ZOOM**, and it is only \$15, covering the administrative and mailing costs involved; **PLUS** you will need to purchase the required course book available from Cokesbury.com or Amazon.com. It is much more economical than an in-person course and having to travel and stay in a hotel/motel with meals out. This new format has been working well.

“**GO Preach**” is the only class which will be offered as an in-person class, and we will offer that class in all areas around the West District starting in January 2022. If you would like to volunteer your church for an in-person class, please contact me – **ASAP**.

The upcoming two summer classes are very interesting. Eli Reeves is facilitating, “**Leading Bible Study**” in mid-July. He is an accomplished teacher and often leads a Bible Study at Lakeview UMC in Sun City. His bio is attached. In late August, the Lay Leader for the West District, Jeannie Ward is leading the “**Basic Class**” which is required on the path to becoming a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker or a Certified Lay Minister. Jeannie’s bio is, also, attached. We are blessed to have such qualified teachers to lead these **ZOOM** classes for us.

Please take a moment and register for a class or classes and become involved in the Christian education program in the United Methodist Church!

Blessings,

Betty Stewart

West District Director
Lay Servant Ministries
bettyboop491@cox.net
480-658-7713

Lay Servant Ministries

Leading Bible Study

This Advanced ZOOM class is taught by long time Bible Teacher Eli Reeves from Lakeview UMC in Sun City. Two **ZOOM** Classes will be offered in mid-July, one during the day and one evening class. We are trying to reach more people offering both day and evening classes.

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/lay-servant-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 *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 a.m. to Noon

The Evening Session is: Evenings 5:30 – 9 p.m.

Wednesday to Friday – July 14, 15, and 16, 5:30 to 9 p.m.

Blessings,

Betty Stewart

West District Director

Lay Servant Ministries

bettyboop491@cox.net Cell # 480-658-7713

Lay Servant Ministries

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

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:

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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 *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 a.m. 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

Blessings,

Betty Stewart

West District Director Lay Servant Ministries

bettyboop491@cox.net Cell # 480-658-7713

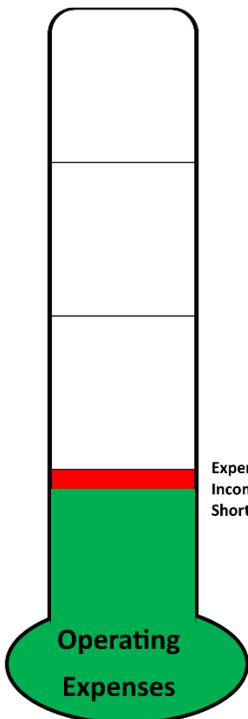
July 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time	28	29	30 Prayer Group 1:30 pm, zoom & P.O. Worship Design 4:00 pm Office	1 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH	2 Fun Friday Movie Night @ 6 pm Fellowship Hall	3
4 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Happy Independence Day	5	6	7 Prayer Group 1:30 pm, zoom & P.O. Worship Design 4:00 pm Office	8 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH	9	10
11 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time SPRC meeting 12:30 pm	12	13	14 Prayer Group 1:30 pm, zoom & P.O. Worship Design 4:00 pm Office	15 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH	16	17
18 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Leadership Board Meeting 12:30 pm	19	20	21 Prayer Group 1:30 pm, zoom & P.O. Worship Design 4:00 pm Office	22 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH	23	24
25 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Visioning Team 12:30 pm	26	27	28 Prayer Group 1:30 pm, zoom & P.O. Worship Design 4:00 pm Office	29 Men's AA 8:00 pm, FH	30	31

1	2	NOTES
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Masks are still required for groups of 10 or more!

Movie night Details: Blue Miracle is the movie, Gourmet Flavored Popcorn will be available to buy.



First Quarter	
Expenses	\$36,078.07
Income	\$34,601.30
Shortage	\$ 1,476.77

	May 2021	Jan – May 2021
Expense	6,423.04	36,078.07
Income	6,574.70	34,601.30
Total	151.60	(1,476.77)



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Pastor Janet Culbertson

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Bishop Robert Hoshibata, residing UMC Bishop

Javier Olivares, District Superintendent