

Shepherd's Voice

May 2021



When she speaks her words
are wise, and kindness is the
rule for everything she says,
Proverbs 31:26.

God Bless all our Mothers

If you have keys and codes to access the locked church or if you think you no longer need access, please see Karen. We are updating the list. Thank you.



Dear Friends,

I love spring in the desert when we see new green shoots and even flowers emerging from the barren, rocky landscape. It feels like we have experienced a year-long winter due to the effects of the Corona Virus and we are finally seeing signs of new life. Our sanctuary is now open on Sunday Mornings, cases and deaths are dropping, and as of this writing, close to 40% of Arizonans have had their first vaccinations.

Even though I joined you last summer, we began our ministry together during a winterlike season. Like so many churches, our church has been in decline for several years and COVID certainly hasn't helped. We have some work to do to build up this body of Christ. In general, our action plan is to SURVIVE, REVIVE, AND THRIVE. We are surviving our winter and are beginning to look forward to a spring of revival. We will celebrate Pentecost on May 23rd when we recall the disciple's receipt of the Holy Spirit. "Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴They were all filled with the Holy Spirit... (Acts 2:2-4)." This is when God empowered the people through the Holy Spirit to begin their ministry. We are all ministers. I call upon each and every one of you to PRAY EXPECTANTLY.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to fill our community and to move Shepherd of the Valley toward renewal and revival. We must be able to know and listened to God and to discern God's call for our church. I came across this quote recently.

"Lord I crawled across the barrenness to you with my empty cup uncertain in asking any small drop of refreshment. If only I had known you better, I'd have come running with a bucket." -Nancy Spiegelberg

I urge you to include the prayer below in your daily prayer practice:

O God, you sent the Holy Spirit to enkindle the zeal of Christ's followers waiting in Jerusalem for his promised gift.

Pour the same inspiration on the people of Shepherd of the Valley, and on the Church of Christ throughout the world.

Revive the power of the gospel in our hearts, that it may be to us a sacred trust for the blessing of all creation.

Enable your Church to spread the good news of salvation, so that all nations may hear it in their own tongues, and welcome it into their own lives.

Protect, encourage, and bless all ministers of the cross,
and prosper their words and works,
so that Jesus, being lifted up, may draw all people unto him,
and the kingdoms of the world
may become the kingdom of our Lord and of Jesus Christ. Amen.

United Methodist Book of Worship #407, amended

Let's all come running with our buckets and watch how God moves in the life of our church.

Grace and Peace to You,

Pastor Janet

Something to Consider

Generous giving is an acknowledgment that everything we have is a gift from God, and is to be used in His service. If you received a stimulus check, please prayerfully consider giving a portion to Shepherd of the Valley.

Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all (James 1:17).

Anything you can give is appreciated and will help to further our mission to Feed, Tend and Send in the name of the Good Shepherd.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of our Church Governing Board, I'd like to let you know that we will now be sharing a brief financial report periodically. We desire to keep you informed. As I mentioned in my letter, we have some work to do to build up the Body of Christ and our finances are one aspect of that. The last few years, our expenditures have exceeded our income and it has been necessary to utilize some of our designated funds in order to pay our expenses. The good news is that we have no debt. Steps have been taken to correct this shortfall. For example, when I came on board last July clergy expenses were reduced significantly because we went from a full-time pastor with lots of education and experience to a half-time pastor with less education and experience. We have reduced other operational expenses too. When our copy machine lease is up in September, we will not be renewing it. We will rely on a standard printer and this will decrease our expenses even more. We are looking for fundraising opportunities and leaders who are willing to initiate fundraising ventures. Please let me know if you have any ideas.

I thank each one of you for the gifts, dedication and love you bring to Shepherd of the Valley.

Grace and Peace to You, Pastor Janet

Financial Report:

	March 2021	Jan-Mar 2021
Expense	\$ 6,983.18	\$ 22,182.56
Income	\$ 5,364.54	\$ 16,876.94

Total \$(1,614.64) \$(5,305.62)

Insurance \$ 1,139.25 \$ 4,329.50

We have three more quarterly payments of \$1,139.25 in June, September, and December.

A Glimpse of Hunger at ASU

By Billie K. Fidlin, Director of Outreach & Justice, and
Rev. Jamie Booth, ASU Valley Wesley

There are students on university campuses across the country who have difficulty securing regular meals during the best of times. In these times of COVID-19, this has become even more of a challenge for many. Students have lost jobs, lost scholarships, have had safe transportation issues. Times are difficult for many in our nation, and some students are facing equally difficult circumstances. For some context, ASU has over 100,000 students in the metro-Phoenix area, most of which are on the Tempe campus. Students who attend come from every “walk of life” imaginable. Some students come from families with means. Others come from poverty and are doing the best they can to receive an education to better their lives. A recent statistic, ASU Wesley Campus Minister, Rev. Jamie Booth, found that 14% of students at 4-year institutions were facing housing instability. (Goldrick-Rab, Baker-Smith, Coca, Looker, & Williams, 2019) This may mean they’re sleeping in the library and showering at the gym. It may mean sleeping in a car. It may mean sleeping in a different friend’s dorm room every night. While Rev. Booth had not seen these content-specific statistics specific to ASU, she shared, “If we assume those statistics hold true... that would be around 14,000 students. Now multiply this times all four of our campus ministries, and you’re looking at 10’s of thousands of students who are housing instable in our Conference.”

Many more may have housing security but still lack regular access to food. Pre-COVID, the ASU Foodbank was helping about 400 students a semester across seven sites. However, earlier this year, one week saw 200 students signed up for nutrition assistance on the Tempe campus alone. This illustrates the increase in students needing assistance during these most difficult times of pandemic. Our campus ministries are asking for our help. VISA gift cards in \$20 increments would be great, or cash assistance. Once we can gather together in person again, each of the ministries would welcome meal assistance – there’s nothing like home cooking! You can contact the ministries for more information.

Campus Ministry Contacts :

ASU Valley Wesley – Rev. Jamie Booth,
pastorjamie@tempefirstumc.org

UofA Wesley Fronterra – Rev. Hannah Bonner Adair,
hbonner@email.arizona.edu

NAU Campus Ministry Connection – Rev. Kathleen Day,
ucm.nau@gmail.com

UNLV Oasis Campus Ministry – Rev. Jaycee Salangsang,
jmsalangsang@gmail.com

Dove Board of Church and Society Criminal Justice Webinar

The economic inequality task force of the Board of Church and Society is working on the next webinar event scheduled for May 6th from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. This will look at our criminal justice system and its relationship to economic inequality.

We have previously presented events on racism and its relationship to economic inequality, and the last one looked at education as it relates to economic inequality. These have been well attended and well received.

We have another great panel of well-informed members that are involved with improving the criminal justice system. Mark your calendar and join us once again. Here's the link to register: <https://dscumc.org/blog/2021/03/24/economic-inequality-and-prison-reform-event/>

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

Is Your name missing? We'd love to recognize You on your special day! Submit Your Birthday or Anniversary Date to the office.

Happy Birthday

John Oemler May 2	Sophie Affeldt May 19
Margaret Dow May 5	Larry Coleman May 20
Wanda Jackson May 15	Joan Cohen May 22
Shelly Boucher May 16	Carol Willis May 29
Beth Haw May 16	
Hiro Oshiro May 17	
Len Phillips May 17	



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Happy Anniversary

John and Lynn Oemler	May 3
Roy and Joyce Seaver	May 16



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Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War by freed slaves. It became a national holiday in 1971. Thank you, Military for Your Service and Your sacrifice.

May 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
25 10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream 4pm SPRC/Nominating Committee Training	26	27	28 11am Staff Meeting 12 - 4pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 4pm Worship Design team	29 12 -4pm Office Hours 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	30	1 UMOM Virtual Scavenger Hunt
2 10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream	3	4	5 11am Staff Meeting 12 - 4pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 4pm Worship Design team	6 12 -4pm Office Hours 7pm Economic InEquality Webinar 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	7 Bingo Friday Fun Night @ Fellowship Hall or Zoom.	8
9 10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream Mother's Day	10	11	12 11am Staff Meeting 12 - 4pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 4pm Worship Design team	13 12 -4pm Office Hours 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	14	15
16 10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream 12:30pm Church Board Meeting	17	18	19 11am Staff Meeting 12 - 4pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 4pm Worship Design team	20 12 -4pm Office Hours 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	21	22
23 Pentecost Sunday 10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream Nancy Cushman Retirement Zoom	24	25	26 11am Staff Meeting 12 - 4pm Office Hours 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom 4pm Worship Design team	27 12 -4pm Office Hours 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	28	29
30 10:30 am Worship In-Person & On-Line Live Stream	31 Memorial Day	NOTES	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!			

Shepherd of the Valley UMC

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Pastor Janet Culbertson

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Bishop Robert Hoshibata, residing UMC Bishop

Nancy Cushman, District Superintendent