

Shepherd's Voice

November 2021



Happy Birthday

Cyril B	5 th	Jack S	10 th	Mark P	16 th
Darvin J	22 nd	Sylvia L	26 th	Emmalyn Grace	27 th
Mark S	29 th				

Happy Anniversary

Jack and Murrie	2 nd	Ken and Beth	17 th
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UMOM Winter Coat Drive

Its not too early 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!

Afghan Refugee Update

Sep 27, 2021

By: Billie K. Fidlin, Director of Outreach & Justice and Rev. David Felten, The Fountains UMC

On September 24th, Rev. David Felten, Rev. Rachel Gilmore and I took part in the Welcome Tent Interfaith Collaboration meeting supporting Afghan refugees. This effort is being led by Rabbi Shmuly Yanklowitz and Eddie Chavez Calderon from Arizona Jews for Justice. Other attendees included Rev. Dr. Warren Stewart Sr., First Institutional Baptist Church; Rev. Katie Sexton, Arizona Faith Network; Rev. Susan Valiquette, First Church Phoenix; Rabbi John Linder, Temple Solel; Pastor Ken Heintzleman, Shadow Rock UCC; Rev. Rock Fremont Jr, Shepherd of the Hills UCC; Rabbi A. Nitzan Stein Kokin, Beth El Congregation; and Rebekah Krevans, Foothills Christian Church. This group will be meeting over the next six months including working with the governor's office and the other groups who work with resettlement.

While some Afghans have already arrived in Phoenix, many more are expected. There are a variety of ways that our churches can rise to help. Note that the normal processes are not in play for these refugees; our government is looking at new ways to help expedite housing, jobs etc.

What is needed:

- Family Support. Would your church be willing to adopt/sponsor one family (or more) to help with the basic needs? Would your church partner with another church to do same? Are you willing to help welcome them to America, teaching families about our culture here, schooling etc. Monetary donations will be welcomed as well – while the family will essentially be loaned 3 months rent – those rents are likely to be around \$1,600/month unless we can strike a deal with landlords etc. The need for face-to-face volunteers is great.
- Housing. Likely the state will be looking for Section 8 housing for some 1,500 people in Phoenix and Tucson, housing which already is in high demand. If you know of housing that could be available we need to hear about it. Any connections you have would be greatly appreciated.
- Housing Content. This is a wide category that involves everything from furniture to diapers, food, water, clothing etc.- all basic necessities, remembering that most people came with what they could minimally carry.
- ESL trained facilitators are needed. People who served as interpreters will speak English but their family may not.
- People willing to provide transportation for the families for various reasons are needed.
- We will want to help place people in jobs. Remembering that likely a member of the family was an interpreter, there may be less of a language barrier regarding that person. Also, it is likely that many will have participated in higher learning.
- Do you know people who can provide counseling? There will be a need for mental health counseling – they have been through so much.
- There is some discussion around having a community welcome concert event. Would you be willing to help and how?
- Are you interested in advocacy around this issue? We know that the housing length of stay 3 months – is difficult and goes by quickly. There will be additional justice issues that need to be addressed with legislators etc.

We know there are so many difficult challenges facing our world today. We know that people of faith are compassionate and help where they can. We are counting on that knowledge. Please let us know specifically how you would like to help and we'll go from there.

Please contact Billie at bfidlin@dscumc.org or 602.705.5797 or David at david@weputlovefirst.org



	September	Jan – Sept 2021
Expense	\$9,965.62	\$66,732.94
Income	\$7,819.32	\$77,664.54
Comment: Higher expense in September due to insurance payment.		

Additional events this month:

- We are updating our directory information. Please correct and return the paper you receive. Even if there are no corrections, please initial and return it anyway.
- Christ's Community UMC in Avondale craft sale 11/6.
- If you would like to provide some special music for us during the Advent season, please let me know so we can plan for that.
- November 7th is All Saint's Sunday. If you lost a close loved one within the last year and would like to have their name read along with our church members who have gone on to glory, please contact the office.
- Art is putting together a slide show to honor our veterans. If you have someone to add, please see Art.
- November 14th is our Church Conference right after our worship service. The annual Church Conference is a time of accountability in which we align with best practices and transparency. It is also an occasion to celebrate the year of ministry since the last Conference and set the course of ministry for the coming year. A Church Conference is open to all persons with members of the church eligible to vote.
- SPRC will meet before church at 9:00 am that morning.
- Also in November, we are hosting our Gratitude Campaign. Our Gratitude Picnic will take place on November 21st after church. Due to Covid restrictions, we ask that everyone please bring your own lunch. We are researching possible preassembled lunches from a restaurant if you prefer not to bring your own. More information to come. We will have tables set up outside on the lawn in front of the Education Building so that we can all share a meal together in grateful celebration of all that we have received and all that we are able to give.
- Fun Friday Movie Night 11/5 is Coco. At 6:30 pm.
- Office Hours the week of 11/21/21, will be Tuesday and Wednesday to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The dishtowel hanging in my kitchen reads: Stressed, Blessed and Pumpkin Spice Obsessed. That is pretty accurate. Stress isn't always a bad thing. There is positive stress, and that is what I am experiencing. I have many, many blessings to be thankful for. I just finished my Theology class which I enjoyed very much, and I learned a lot. My older son is doing well, and my younger son has made a smooth transition to Chicago (although the temperatures haven't plummeted yet). Plus, we got to visit him. John and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary. In addition, I just have to say, I really do enjoy pumpkin spice season.

I include you when I count my blessings. I am so grateful for the opportunity God is giving me to serve in ministry with you at Shepherd of the Valley. I am grateful for my fellow staff members, Trina and Erik. I am very thankful for our Church Board members and other committee members. I so appreciate the crew of volunteers who come on Thursday mornings to care for our campus, and those who do security checks and clean-ups throughout the week. I thank God for those who serve in a variety of capacities on Sunday mornings such as ushers, liturgists, techies, puppeteers and teachers as well as the Worship Design Team. I'm thankful to those of you who give of your financial resources that make our ministries possible. I'm grateful for the servants who participate in the prayer circle, the prayer chain, and Martha's circle as well as those who show up for our fellowship time on Fun Fridays. It takes a lot of people to Feed, Tend and Send in the name of the Good Shepherd and I appreciate all of you for doing your part.

I also want to thank you for your prayers that God will reveal the vision he has for this church. Your prayers are working. I have seen God's movement in and around Shepherd of the Valley. The Girl Scouts are back on campus. We also have potential renters and ministry partners. We have connected with a local drug rehabilitation provider and are exploring ministry opportunities. In addition, we are becoming involved with the Block Watch in our area and exploring the possibility of utilizing our land for youth soccer practice fields. We still aren't exactly sure what God is up to, but there is no doubt in my mind that he is at work in our community in a mighty way. For this I am extremely grateful!

Of course, I am most grateful for Jesus; for his great love and sacrifice and grace that all lead to our salvation. And yes, I'm grateful for pumpkin spice cookies too. I pray that you and your loved ones have a blessed Thanksgiving. With Gratitude and Love,

Pastor Janet



Dear Members and Friends of the
Desert Southwest Conference,

I greet you one last time as your bishop
in the name of Jesus Christ, our
Shepherd and Savior!
In 2016, the Desert Southwest
Conference presented me with a
bishop's banner. Pictured here, the
banner featured the familiar phrase,
"ALL MEANS ALL." That phrase should
be inherent in each of us once we give
our lives to Jesus Christ. Just as God
loves all persons, all Christ followers are
to love in the same measure. Let us
never forget that we are called to
demonstrate our faith through acts of
kindness and devotion, loving all
persons in the name of Jesus Christ.

As I enter into a new phase of my life as a retired bishop of The United Methodist Church, I am filled with gratitude that God called me into ministry and that I was blessed to serve God in this capacity. It has been an incredible privilege to serve as your bishop. I thank you for your many words and actions of kindness during the 9 years that we have been in ministry together. I will remember this conference with deep appreciation and joy.

As we part ways, I hope you will strive every day to be a courageous church, loving like Jesus, acting for justice, and united in hope. Living into those words will serve you well as you worship and serve together. I know that you will welcome Bishop Hagiya with loving hearts and a willing spirit to learn and grow together. Both he and you will be a blessing to one another and in turn, you will both be blessed.

I thank you with a heart overflowing with love!

Blessings,

Bob

To find information about Bishop Bob's farewell, please visit <https://dscumc.org/bishop-bob>.

Welcome Message from Bishop Grant

From the Office of Bishop Grant

With the life-changing reality of COVID-19 and the effects it has had on our United Methodist Church, I write this introductory reflection to the churches, laity, and clergy of the Desert Southwest Conference. First, let us remember all those we have lost across the world to the ravages of the global pandemic. Most of us know someone we have lost to COVID-19, and we continue to pray for their surviving families and loved ones.



The direct effect that the global pandemic has had on our United Methodist Church is what has brought me to be in relationship with all of you. We had to cancel our 2020 General Conference, and the Western Jurisdictional Conference, where we would elect new bishops. Instead of retiring, I will continue for a short interim until we can hold the 2022 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Since Bishop Hoshibata preferred to move to a much-deserved retirement, I will be serving until we can elect new bishops. I will continue to serve both the California-Pacific Conference and the Desert Southwest Conference during this interim period.

I know you realize what a huge responsibility this is, and I ask for your continued prayers during this period. Fortunately, I have had experience in taking on an additional annual conference in my history. I was serving the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference and the Alaska Missionary Conference, when in 2012, our Western Jurisdiction lost one bishop, and we decided to combine the Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference into one region called the Greater Northwest Area. So, I know a bit about what this means and, hopefully, have had some experiences that will help us navigate this change.

First of all, there is no ulterior motive to merge the annual conferences or Episcopal areas. We were once one annual conference, and with the strength of the Arizona and southern Nevada areas, you formed the Desert Southwest Conference, and have thrived in the process. With a smaller footprint, I believe that Cal-Pac has also thrived. I believe that for future growth and prosperity, we should have two independent annual conferences and Episcopal areas. However, we can enhance each other by sharing programming, leadership, and vital resources. My vision is that we can provide cross-conference resourcing to each other and becoming stronger by sharing vital ministries.

Second, I will only be here in the Desert Southwest for a short season of time, yet, we cannot stand still waiting. We must actively move forward in ministry: improving, innovating, and creating new forms of ministry that will evangelize new people into our churches. Now is not a time to hunker down and wait out this interim period. Instead, it is a time of dynamic outreach and growth where we aim to expand our ministries. I hope to serve as a catalyst for this growth, but all of us as local leaders must also enter this mindset and commit to such action. If we have learned anything from COVID-19, it is that we can continue to do life-giving ministry, even with limited physical access. I am challenging all of us to step up our commitment to creativity and innovation and find new ways of doing the ministry of Jesus Christ!

Finally, my style of leadership is one of transparency and trust. I always have an open door in terms of communication, and by extension, the Cabinet and staff will also model this openness.

Trust, of course, has to be earned, and the best way to reach this is through consistent and integral actions. I pledge to give my all toward earning such trust, and I pray that you will join me in the active reshaping of ministry in our Desert Southwest Conference.

I do not believe it is just fate that has brought us together, but the providence of God is a mighty factor in all of life, and I pray that there is a divine reason for our time together. I relish the gift of this time with all of you!

Be the Hope,
Bishop Grant

 **Martha Circle Christmas Sale** 
Pre-Order Sheet

Martha Circle's Christmas Sale is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 12, on the front patio. We are not expecting Covid or anything else that will cancel the sale, but, just in case, we are taking pre-orders on some of our regular cooked items and the Christian calendar. If you wish to reserve any items ahead of time, please fill out this sheet and give it to Sally (623-915-1062) or place it in the Martha Circle mailbox in the office by **Sunday, Nov. 21.**

Name _____
Telephone Number _____

I wish to order

- Christian calendars, \$10 each or \$8 each for two or more. Only 25 are available.
- of Ray's key-lime pies, \$10 each Only 12 are available.
- pkgs. of Vonnie's white chocolate Christmas bark, \$4 each
- pkgs. of Vonnie's milk chocolate Christmas bark, \$4 each
- Christmas containers of Art's Christmas party mix, \$5 each
- pints Arturo's Salsa Dulce, \$5 each
- 3/4 lbs, Sally's chocolate fudge with nuts, \$5 each
- 3/4 lbs, Sally's chocolate fudge without nuts, \$5 each
- 3/4 lbs, Sally's dark chocolate fudge with nuts, \$5 each

Other food and other types of items will be available for sale on the patio on Dec. 12. Limited items will be reserved on a first-come, first serve basis. Payment is due Dec. 12.

Donations of sale items are gratefully accepted. Proceeds benefit Martha Circle and its missions.



November 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time	1	2	3 Office Hours 12-4 pm 1:30 pm Prayer Group, zoom	4 10:30 am Martha Circle, rm1 Office Hours 12 - 4 pm 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	5 Family Fun Night Movie "Coco" 6:30 pm	6 Christ's UMC Craft Sale
7 All Saint's Sunday 10:30 am Worship Worship On-Line Any Time	8 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH	9	10 Office Hours 12-4 pm 1:30 pm Prayer Group, zoom	11 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	12	13
14 SPRC 9 am Worship Service 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Church Conf. 11:30 am	15	16	17 Office Hours 12-4 pm 1:30 pm Prayer Group, zoom	18 10:30 am Martha Circle, rm1 Office Hours 12 - 4 pm 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	19	20
21 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time	22 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH	23 Office Hours- 12-4 pm	24 Office Hours 12-4 pm 1:30 pm Prayer Group, zoom	25 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH Happy Thanksgiving	26	27
28 Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time	29	30	1 Office Hours 12-4 pm 1:30 pm - Prayer Group, zoom	2 Office Hours 12-4 pm 8:00 pm Men's AA, FH	3	4
5	6	NOTES				

Masking and Social Distancing are required for in person event of 10 or more.
We hope to see YOU soon!

Shepherd of the Valley UMC

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Pastor Janet Culbertson

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Bishop Grant Haglya, Interim UMC Bishop

Rev. Javier Olivares, District Superintendent