July 2025

Shepherd's Voice

Happy Birthday!

Bob Dunning	4th
Norma Dunning	13th

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

Thank you.

Maintenance Issues

Kitchen ceiling in Fellowship Hall: The maintenance issues are being resolved. Insulation and dry wall are installed. The rest of the repairs will be completed to follow that work.

July Prayer Focus for the Desert Southwest Conference Churches

Christ Community UMC, Avondale, AZ
Community Church of Buckeye, Buckeye, AZ
Dove of the Desert UMC, Glendale, AZ

It's Yoga Time for Shepherd of the Valley and Lake Biltmore Block Watch!!!

Annette will continue to lead Shepherd of the Valley and Lake Biltmore in four yoga sessions in July!!!
This is a great milestone in activating our community!
Classes will be held in Room 1 at Shepherd of the Valley, 3039 W. Cactus Rd. The cost is $10 per class. (A GREAT deal!)
July 18th and 25th Easy Flow Yoga 9am or Yin Yoga 5pm

Save The Dates

Please submit items for the newsletter to Karen by the **17th** of the month.

Bible Study is taking a break for the Summer. We will resume in the Fall.

July 4th There will not be a Family Fun Night. We wish each of you the Happiest Fourth of July. Please spend time enjoying your family. We will resume next month.

July 12th Breakfast Bunch at **8:30am** at a new restaurant: The Place. 5171 W. Bell Rd, Glendale, AZ. 85308. Come and enjoy the fellowship.

July 18th & 25th Easy Flow Yoga at **9am**. Bring a mat and pillow. Yin Yoga at **5pm**. Bring a mat, pillow and light blanket. Cost is $10.

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is wonderful to be back from Annual Conference and vacation. Just a few weeks ago, as Wanda, Karen and I drove to the conference in Las Vegas, one of the things we talked about was the different leadership paths that United Methodist clergy can take. I thought knowing the difference between Elders, Deacons, Local Pastors…and more, might be of interest to you too.

At this year's Annual Conference, three individuals were ordained as **Elders in Full Connection**. This means that they each earned a master's degree in divinity and met all the requirements for ordination including the successful completion of a two-year probationary period. Six individuals were Commissioned as **Provisional Elders**, meaning they have completed their degrees and ordination requirements and are now commissioned to serve during the two-year probationary period. All Elders can serve and perform the sacraments of Baptism and Communion in any setting.

In the UMC, **Deacons** are ordained following the same process, but we didn't have any Deacons ordained or commissioned this year. Though Deacons can and do serve churches, Deacon's most often serve in agencies outside the local church. Deacons act as a "bridge" connecting the church to the secular world. For example, they may serve as hospital or military chaplains, counselors, or in other capacities. They can perform the sacraments in churches and locations where they are assigned.

One person was recognized as an **Associate Member**. She completed her degree and requirements but is too close to retirement age to become an Elder. Associate Members have responsibilities and privileges similar to Ordained Elders.

I am one of a growing number of **Licensed Local Pastors** serving churches in our conference. The LLP track was designed specifically for people like me who are called by God

to vocational ministry as a second career. There was a discernment process and approval by the SPRC and Charge Conference of the church I was attending. I also had to go before the District Committee, present written requirements, attend an Orientation to Ministry event, and pass a psychological evaluation. Once approved, I attended Local Pastor Licensing School at Iliff School of Theology in Denver and was again assigned a mentor as I began my first appointment. I am authorized to perform the sacraments only in the context of my role as pastor of Shepherd of the Valley where I'm appointed. Also, you may have noticed that I don't use the "Reverend" title or wear a stole when I wear a robe. Those privileges are reserved for clergy who have been ordained.

All UMC clergy are itinerant, meaning they are appointed by the bishop to serve one year at a time in the charge he discerns for them. I am thrilled to be appointed to Shepherd of the Valley once again.

My education is ongoing. You may hear me speak of my "Course of Study" classes. I need to complete twenty graduate-equivalent courses and I'm officially halfway there. As a ¾ time pastor, I'm expected to take three classes a year. I took a class back in February, and I will be taking two classes this summer, in July and August. Though they are a lot of work, I always find them inspiring. These classes will not lead to ordination, but I will have the option to pursue Associate Membership if I feel God leading me in that direction.

What about you? Have you felt God calling you to a new role in ministry as a lay person or even as clergy? I would welcome the opportunity to speak with you about where God may be leading you. Please contact me so we can set aside some time to talk.

In Christ's Peace and Love,

Pastor Janet

Safe Lot Update

Providing temporary outdoor shelter for the participants as an alternative to sleeping in their cars has always been a part of their vision. All of the tent structures that they have tried have succumbed to the harsh elements of the desert; particularly the wind. We have given them permission to build one prototype of an 8'x20' temporary movable shelter with a door, windows, and climate control. After the build, we will evaluate next steps. They hope to have 4-5 temporary structures withing the fenced area they are already occupying.
We are in the process of renewing our agreement with them.

Please remember to go to and like SOV Facebook page. You must download the Facebook app on your device and search for Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church. The link for worship service is included there.

Thanks to Gina for maintaining the site for us.

Leadership Team Members

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

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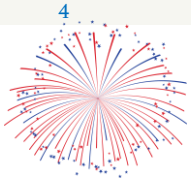
Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, UMC Bishop
Reverend Javier Olivares, District Superintendent

July 2025

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Women's AA 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall & kids Rm 1 Men's AA		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	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		Breakfast Bunch 8:30am Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 12 pm - 4 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom CPCA 6-7:30 pm Rm1	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	Easy Flow Yoga 9am Rm 1 Yin Yoga 5pm Rm 1	Blood Drive 8:00am - 1:00 pm Blood Mobile Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 10 am - 2 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Board Meeting 12N			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom HOA 5:30-8:30 F.H.	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	Easy Flow Yoga 9am Rm 1 Yin Yoga 5pm Rm 1	Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 12 pm - 4 pm
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	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		
3	4	NOTES				

Worship is available In-Person and On our YouTube channel SOVUMC.
Enjoy coffee and snacks after the worship service.