October 2026

Shepherd's Voice

Happy Birthday!

Emma V	**6th**	**Willie Jo**	**23rd**		
Jacob H	**9th**	**Betty O**	**25th**		
Jean S	**16th**				

Happy Anniversary

Ian and Ava	**15th**
Janet and John	**19th**

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.

<u>October Prayer Focus for the Desert Southwest Conference Churches</u>

Shepherd of the Valley UMC - Phoenix, AZ
Song of Life UMC - Queen Creek, AZ
St. Matthew UMC - Mesa, AZ
Sunrise UMC - Phoenix, AZ

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

Fun Friday October 2, 2026 6:00pm Japanese Friendship Garden 1125 N. 3rd Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85003
Optional: Ice Cream after the garden at: Scooptopia 4700 N. Central Ave. Suite 105 Phoenix, AZ 85012

Is Development Feasible?

We are encouraged because the short answer is yes.

Steve Capobres, the developer assigned to our feasibility study by the Vitalyst Foundation, presented a draft of The Affordable Housing Feasibility Report to our Church Board on September 20th.

The Final Recommendation of the seven-page report is as follows:

"Advance the 11-unit concept into formal predevelopment as the preferred and preliminarily feasible plan with a housing developer partner. This feasibility study shows that Shepherd of the Valley Church would receive a total of $650,962 in lease payments over the first 15 years of operation. Community demand, the one- and two-bedroom program, R1-6 density, positive NOI, and sustainable debt coverage support this decision. Remaining diligence should confirm civil fit, city concurrence, costs, land terms, and a fully committed capital stack. Construction and financial closing remain subject to [conditions]."

The full report will be available digitally and on paper for the congregation to view.

Steve Capobres expressed interest in pursuing the project as the actual developer on behalf of his company, Housing for Hope. Based on the Board's experience working with Steve, the time and energy he has invested in the project, the success of other housing projects that he has developed, the alignment of our church's mission with that of Housing for Hope, and other considerations, the Church Board voted unanimously to pursue an agreement with Steve and Housing for Hope as the selected developer. At our upcoming Church Conference, the Church Board will recommend that Shepherd of the Valley move forward with the project. The voting body of the Church Conference includes all professing members of Shepherd of the Valley who are in attendance. Therefore, we encourage you to attend the Church Conference at Trinity UMC Phoenix on Sunday November 29th at noon.

In order to make informed decisions, we have a couple of opportunities coming up to glean more information.

1. We are planning a site visit to one or more of the properties that Steve and Housing for Hope have worked/are working on. The tentative date for the site visits is Friday November 6th in the afternoon.
2. We plan to have a brief Q & A session after church on Sunday November 8th. Please plan to attend.

The Board and Pastor Janet are open to feedback and would be happy to discuss any ideas or concerns that you have about the potential development of our property. Please continue to pray for wisdom, clarity and discernment regarding this project.

PHOENIX COMMUNITY • LAKE BILTMORE • ALL ARE WELCOME

YOU'RE INVITED TO THE

Grand Opening

Good Shepherd's *Garden*

A garden grown by the community, for the community.

17

9:30 – 11:30 A.M.

AT 10:00 A.M.

Grand Opening Ceremony, Blessing & Ribbon Cutting

Join us as we officially dedicate this garden to the community

JOIN US FOR A MORNING OF CELEBRATION

FREE REFRESHMENTS
Coffee, donuts & juice for everyone

YARD GAMES
Fun for the whole community

KIDS' CRAFT TABLE
Creative fun for little ones

All Are Welcome — Bring the whole family!

LOCATION

Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church
3039 W. Cactus Rd., Phoenix, AZ

PROUDLY BROUGHT TOGETHER BY

KEEP Phx BEAUTIFUL

City of Phoenix

Good Shepherd's Garden is partially funded by the generosity of Keep Phoenix Beautiful and City of Phoenix Blockwatch Grant.

Free & open to all · **No registration required** · 3039 W. Cactus Rd., Phoenix, AZ

Cluster Church Conferences
Valley District

In an effort to be more connectional and better stewards of our time and resources, this year, The Valley District will experiment with cluster church conferences. The way this will work is as follows:

- A group of churches, close to each other in proximity, will meet at one location for their church conference, as assigned by The Valley District Superintendent. We will meet at Trinity UMC along with Calvary UMC.
- We will begin our time together reflecting on the theme "A Healthy Church for A Healthy World: We Are the Church Together."
- Each church in the cluster will share about the ministry happening in their setting.
- Following the opening time of reflection and sharing we will move into the business portion of the meeting.
- All professing members of Shepherd of the Valley are eligible to vote on the following items:
- *Membership Report including 1st and 2nd year lists for removal consideration*
- *Pastor Compensation*
- *Nominations/Lay Leadership Report*
- *Lay Servants/CLMS (names)*
- *Approval for the development of our vacant land*

Cluster Church Conference
Sunday November 29th at 12:00 Noon
Trinity United Methodist Church
3104 W. Glendale Ave. Phoenix AZ 85051

Martha Circle Fall Sale

Sunday October 25th before and after service.

There will also be a special raffle item

An Announcement from the Office of Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference,

Grace and peace to you in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ who calls us to health and wholeness.

It is with joy that I announce that it is my intention to appoint the Rev. Melissa Rynders as Assistant to the Bishop in the Desert Southwest Conference beginning October 1, 2026. She will assume this role in addition to her current role as Valley District Superintendent.

Melissa is a child of this conference who has lived and served in different settings across our area in a variety of leadership and pastoral roles. Prior to serving on Cabinet, she chaired the Board of Ordained Ministry. Through her vast ministry experience, God has honed her gifts as a compassionate yet firm pastor, critical systems thinker and creative leader. I know that she will excel in this new role and help us with the strategic and adaptive work necessary for us to live into our vision.

As Assistant to the Bishop, fondly called A2B in denominational circles, Rev. Rynders will assist me in my role of leading and overseeing the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Phoenix Episcopal Area,
taking on administrative and strategic leadership responsibilities as assigned and serving as the bishop's representative where deemed appropriate and necessary. She will continue as Dean of Cabinet, leading the Superintending (Appointive Cabinet) and Coordinating (Extended Cabinet) teams and serve as a member of the Core Team.

While my discernment for the need of an A2B has been happening since I assumed joint episcopal leadership of the Desert Southwest and New Mexico Conferences, my additional responsibility as Chair of the denomination's Connectional Table necessitated formally creating this role at this time. Funding for the salary differential will come out of the Episcopal Office budget from savings in office rental expenses due to the sale of the Conference Center. It will not impact the conference budget.

In accepting the added responsibility, Melissa said, "I'm honored to take on the work of Assistant to the Bishop. For me, ministry is about walking alongside people, and I'm grateful for the chance to further support our vision of becoming *A Healthy Church for A Healthy World*. I look forward to this next chapter of serving in ministry with our clergy and churches."

Please join me in welcoming and praying for Rev. Melissa Rynders as she takes on this added responsibility, and for her spouse Rob, and their family as they live into the realities brought about by this transition.

Addaan namnama ken rag-o (With hope and joy),

Bishop Carlo

A Note from the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

Part of the job of the SPRC is to support the pastor by helping her to set healthy boundaries. We'd like to remind you of the following:

- Pastor Janet is a ¾ time pastor. She works 30 – 40 hours per week.
- Sunday afternoon and Monday are her sabbath time.
- Wednesday and Thursday are workdays and she's in the office 12-4:00.
- Tuesday, Friday and Saturday are flex days. Pastor Janet works from home. Her hours vary. She is available by appointment, phone or text.
- You may Email Pastor Janet anytime.
- For non-emergencies, please call/text between the hours of 8am-8pm.
- For life-altering or life-threatening emergencies call/text **anytime** but be aware that her phone is typically silenced overnight.
- Pastor Janet would also like you to be aware of the following:
- She is a little squeamish. Please don't send her pictures of your injuries.
- If you have a need, please get in touch with her. She's not very good at mind-reading.
- Pastor Janet says she has a knack for appearing busy, but she wants you to know that despite appearances, she's not too busy for YOU. In fact, sitting down, talking with people, and praying with them is one of the greatest joys of ministry for her.

Leadership Team Members

Chair	Karen	Pastor	Janet	Treasurer	Sandee
SPRC	Suzanne	Finance Sec		Lay Leader	Gail
Trustee	Jack	Member	Ruth	Member	Denise
Member	Betty				

Shepherd of the Valley UMC
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602-758-3473
Pastor Janet Culbertson SOVUMC@hotmail.com
www.shepherdofthevalleyphoenix.org
Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut, UMC Bishop
Reverend Melissa Rynders, District Superintendent

October 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
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	Fun Friday 6pm	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			Bible Study 11:00 - 12:30 p.o. Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom	Martha Circle 10:30 Rm 1 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		Hoziana Ministries 11-1 pm Breakfast Bunch 8:00 am Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 12 pm - 4 pm
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time Board Mtg 12:00	Girl Scouts 5:30 FH	LBBW 6:30 pm F.H.	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		Good Shepherd's GardenGrand Opening 9:30-11:30 Hoziana Ministries 11-1 pm Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 11 am - 3 pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time			Bible Study 11:00 - 12:30 p.o. Office Open 12:00 - 4:00 pm Prayer Group 1:30 pm zoom CPCA 6-7:30 pm Rm1 Family Promise Dinner @ St. Andrews	Martha Circle 10:30 Rm 1 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	Family Promise Dinner @ St. Andrews	Hoziana Ministries 11-1 pm Jewelry Making with Sandee, rm 1 12 pm - 4 pm
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Martha Circle Sale Worship 10:30 am Worship On-Line Any Time	Girl Scouts 5:30 FH		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		Hoziana Ministries 11-1 pm