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# Living and Sharing The Faith We Profess



# **Worship in June**

As the days warm up, we celebrate the warmth of God's love!

Join us for Father's Day and for Goodbyes & Hellos! Join us in Worship each Sunday!

June 2 "Loving the New Normal" 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

Sacrament of Holy Communion

June 9 "Exit Lines" Matthew 28:16-20 Acts 1:6-8

Pastor Kathleen's last Sunday

June 16 Guest Preacher Pastor Bill Cutter

Father's Day Annual Conference Sunday

June 23 Guest Preacher Pastor Ross Parrott

June 30 Guest Preacher Pastor Louie Lyons

July 7 Pastor Jody's first Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER SERMON SCHEDULE ON PAGE 2

# **Upcoming Sermons July/August/September 2024**

# **Series: New Beginnings**

In this first sermon of Pastor Jody's appointment at First UMC Sun City, we will hear from the Apostle Paul through his letter to the church in Ephesus, how we are all connected by our common bond as children of God, adopted into the family of God. She will share a little bit about herself and her family and will invite us to get to know her and each other more fully in the weeks and months to come as God's greatest creation.



July 7 – "Getting to Know You" Psalm 139:1-18, 23 (NRSV); Ephesians 1:3-10 (The Inclusive Bible)

# Series: Faster, Higher, Stronger

This summer, the attention of the entire world turns to Paris as the greatest athletes from around the world gather to compete. Their journeys, filled with years of dedication, training and perseverance, bring them to the glory of this competition. The scriptures are filled with metaphors urging us to use the commitment of an athlete to be what God would have us to be. In this series we will consider these metaphors against the backdrop of the Olympic Games and discover how we can also be the best we can be as followers of Christ.

July 14 – "Straining Forward" 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 (CEB); Philippians 3:13-14 (CEB)

July 21 – "Training for the Games"
1 Corinthians 9:24-27 (CEB); 1 Timothy 4:7b-16 (CEB)

July 28 – "The Power of the Team"
1 Corinthians 12:4-11 (CEB); 1 Thessalonians 5:11,
Hebrews 10:24-25, Galatians 6:2 (CEB)

August 4 – "Endurance and Perseverance"

James 1:2-4, 13 (CEB); 2 Timothy 4:1-8 (CEB)

August 11 – "The Thrill of Victory, the Agony of Defeat" 2 Corinthians 12:7a, 8-10 (CEB); Romans 8:35-39 (CEB)



# Series: Three Powerful Gifts: The Church and Its Sacraments

We all know we should go to church. Most of us have been baptized. And we've likely all taken the bread and juice or wine of Holy Communion. But why do these things matter? Why did Jesus constitute and command us to participate in them? What power do they have to change our lives? In this three-part

series we will rediscover how the Holy Spirit works in and through the Church and the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion to bless us, shape us, and help us to experience God's grace.

August 18 – "The Purpose and Power of the Church" August 25 – "The Purpose and Power of Baptism" September 1 – "The Power of Holy Communion"





# Pastor Kathleen's Corner

My last Pastor Kathleen's Corner newsletter article!

I've enjoyed sharing some thoughts with you each month in this newsletter — I hope you've enjoyed reading them. As I get ready to leave, there are such mixed emotions of grief and loss, as well as great anticipation and new possibilities. Not everybody understands what it means for a pastor to leave a church.

For me, it is like holding all of you in my hands and then gently placing you in the hands and care of another pastor and letting go. It's tough and heart-rending for me!

I am delighted that I will be placing you in Pastor Jody's loving care and guidance. Please know that, even though I will no longer be your pastor, I will keep you all in my prayers and will continue to be your friend.

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians like this — Philippians 1:1-4 "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi ... Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ..."

Here is some of what I will remember and thank God for and be joyful (Not an exhaustive list!)

— Our Sanctuary is such a blessing. Being together in Worship — whether in person or online/Tele-Worship — has been a joy! I will remember our Lighted Cross, the Christ Window, and the colors and glow of the side windows — as well as all your precious faces! I have been blessed by the glorious music from our organ and piano, and the talents of Cathy and Matt. Thank you for letting me be creative with Worship, especially with the Longest Night Service, Blessing of the Animals and Holy Week/Good Friday services!

- We have worked on bringing back some things from before the pandemic and on being a "year round" church. I will miss the monthly delicious potlucks and all the excellent cooks and bakers in our faith community! And we so much fun at last summer's art/craft times glad they are continuing to happen this coming summer through the Women's Fellowship.
- It is a blessing to work with Kimberly in the office! (and Kelly before her.) Also so appreciate Mark and Lou and Arne and Monica — they all give so much to this church! My thanks to all the staff!
- We did many projects for our church facility! With the pandemic and interim pastors, there was deferred maintenance that needed to be taken care of. With the focus of our Leadership Team and the much-appreciated financial support from our Foundation, I am happy to say that our church facility is now in excellent shape! Thank you!
- I will remember the "Aha moments" people have had in Tuesday Morning Bible Studies and in other small group times (and once or twice even in a sermon!) I am grateful for the Women's Retreat a few months after I arrived, with the fun and a lot of laughter and all the learning and growing and sharing together. What a blessing!
- Your prayers for me when I was hospitalized and all of your love and concern about my health following my health scare is a blessing that I will long remember and am so grateful for. Thank you for your loving care!
- There is so much more to remember too much for this one page.

What I cherish the most is the People of this Church — you all are in my heart forever! Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor and for sharing your lives with me. It has been a joy to be in ministry with you!

Thanks be to God!

Paster Kathleen

# From the (Incoming) Pastor

Greetings once again, new friends! I want to thank Pastor Kathleen for giving me the opportunity to share some thoughts with you as we prepare for our upcoming pastoral transition. I'm sure all of you, including Pastor Kathleen, are experiencing some mixed emotions about her upcoming retirement, but I also know you will celebrate her ministry with you on June 9 with a great deal of fanfare and good wishes!



Just as Pastor Kathleen is preparing for her retirement, we (my husband David and I) are preparing for July 1 – the day I will begin my new appointment as your pastor. In this newsletter you will find a couple of articles from me, including one called "Thinking Theologically," in which I reflect a bit on our first sermon series together. I've also included some information about the sermons I've planned for July 7 through September 1. I encourage you to share this sermon information with your friends and neighbors who might be interested in visiting or who are looking for a new church home.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we (David and I) will have met with some of you who are in positions of leadership for a new process called "Onboarding," which is intended to help us get to know each other and provide a forum for discussion about the ways in which we see God leading this church into the future. In addition to this process, however, I would like to begin setting up visits with as many of you – that is, members of the congregation – so we can get to know each other, and I can hear the ways in which you see God leading this church in the near and distant future. So watch for more information on that after July 1.

I also wanted to share with you that, beginning July 1, it is my intention to be in the church office as much as possible on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the week. What you probably don't know is our daughter recently gave birth to her first child (our third grandchild!), and I've agreed to help her care for the little guy, especially when she returns to work later this summer. So on or about July 1, I will let everyone know what my established office hours will be and how you can make an appointment to meet with me, either during or outside those established office hours. I will also be available for pastoral care and/or hospital or home visits when needed.

As I said before, we are looking forward to getting to know all of you in the weeks and months ahead after I begin my appointment on July 1. In the meantime, enjoy your last few weeks with Pastor Kathleen! She's a gem!

God Bless,

Pastor Jody

# FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

# Our Communion Offering Sunday, June 2, 2024 goes to support: UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a nonprofit worldwide emergency relief organization which provides relief in five core areas: Hunger, Health, Refugees, Emergencies, and Relief Supplies. Since 1940, UMCOR has served people in almost 100 countries around the world. The organization is designed such that 100% of all donations are channeled directly to the earmarked project or relief effort.

# Our Communion Offering Sunday, JULY 7, 2024 goes to support: Valley View Community Food Bank

Our mission is to serve those in need with compassion and respect while providing the resources for wholesome nutritious food. Valley View Community offers a safe, positive environment where those seeking help can easily find the resources they need to feed themselves and their families.

Cappy Retirement

After Worship on Sunday, June 9th, we'll celebrate Pastor Kathleen's Retirement.

This will be her last Sunday with us.

She is retiring after 40 years as an ordained pastor in the United Methodist Church.

Everyone is invited to wish her well, to say "goodbye" and to bless her as she begins a new chapter in her life.

# FUMC Women's Fellowship



June 14

Painting Class #1
10:30 am - Lillian Carver

**July 12** 

Painting Class #2 10:30 am - Lillian Carver

**August 9** 

TBD - Art Class 10:30 am - Lillian Carver



FUMC Sun City 9849 N. 105th Avenue Sun City, AZ 85351 www.fumcsuncity.com

If you would like a name tag, please let the church office know by calling (623-974-3631), or by emailing the church office at: office@fumcsuncity.com



You don't need to be a member to get a name tag!



Please sign up in Fellowship Hall to bring cookies, make coffee & clean up.



# Leadership Team Meeting Highlights May 21, 2024

The church continues to receive less in offerings each week than is needed to maintain our budget. Please keep this in your prayers. We are thankful to our foundation for its ongoing support.

We continue to have maintenance and replacement issues with our air conditioning systems which are now being worked on by Sunland.

Colleen Becker and Gerrie Wall will attend Annual Conference as Lay Members in Tucson June 13-16. Pastor Kathleen will be attending her Annual Conference in California at that same time.

Look for details elsewhere in this newsletter about our many upcoming events.

Pastor Kathleen's last Sunday with us will be June 9. We will honor her with cake following worship. We will welcome Pastor Jody and her family with a potluck on July 7.

We are pleased to have had guests attend our meetings. The Leadership Team meets monthly (except during the summer) on the third Thursday at 9 am in the Lillian Carver Room. These meetings are open to all of you who wish to attend. You may speak to an issue but would not be able to vote. Personnel matters will be discussed in Executive Session. We do not have any meetings scheduled for the summer as yet, but we may meet with Pastor Jody at some point. This will be announced in the bulletin or a future newsletter.

Respectfully submitted, Gerrie Wall, Leadership Team Member

# **Update on Projects Completed!**

The **roof** of the Lillian Carver Building was re-coated after leaks were discovered. Leak-free now!

Air Conditioning is vital in our Arizona summers!

The A/C unit in the Sanctuary is now repaired and new A/C units have been installed in the Lillian Carver Room, in Fellowship Hall (South half) and for the Pastor's Office. We are good to stay comfortable!

A leak in the new **Ice Maker** in the Kitchen was repaired.

**Thank you** to the Foundation for funding these projects!





# Thinking Theologically with Pastor Jody

Don't you know that all the runners in the stadium run, but only one gets the prize? So run to win. Everyone who competes practices self-discipline in everything. The runners do this to get a crown of leaves that shrivel up and die, but we do it to receive a crown that never dies.

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

In just a few weeks the Summer Olympic games will begin, and from what I understand, more than 10,000 athletes will compete for those precious gold medals. The US Olympic team will include more than 500 competitors, and I know they've been training really, really hard because they all want that gold medal. They all want to be the best in their event.

And isn't that true for all of us? Don't we want to be the best we can be? I know I do. Ever since I was a little girl, I've tried to be the best: the best student, the best musician, the best mother, the best employee. Sometimes I've been successful at being good at some of those things, but I don't know if I would consider myself *the best...* 

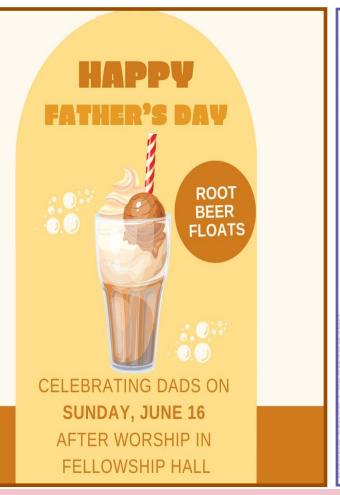
When Paul was writing to the church in Corinth, he was writing to a church that was struggling. They had a lot of issues, from differences in their beliefs to the ways they treated one another. Those who were powerful took advantage of those who were not, and I suspect that at times they were lazy about how they lived out their faith. Perhaps that's why Paul used the analogy of athletes training toward winning the prize. Runners who compete have to be diligent in their training. They can't just walk onto a track, run a race, and win. Weightlifters can't just pick up several hundred pounds and lift it over their heads. Anyone who competes in a sport must be diligent about getting their bodies in shape. They have to train for many hours and work really hard. Otherwise, they will lose...they won't win the prize.

As Christians, Paul writes, we too must be diligent in our training. We must practice self-discipline in everything we do. We must treat one another with respect and dignity because...well, it's not just the right thing to do, but it's the way Jesus taught us to be. We must live lives that are pleasing to God, and not be bickering about petty things that in the long run don't really matter. By doing these things, Paul tells the church, we will receive a prize that is more valuable than a crown or leaves or even a gold medal: life that does not end.

I hope you'll have a chance to watch some of the Olympics on TV in July and August, because I know the athletes who have trained long and hard will be the events will be exciting to watch. But let's not forget that we too are in training, regardless of our age or physical abilities. May we all do the best job we can to be the best followers of Christ we can be.

God Bless,

Pastor Jody



# To The FUMC Women's Fellowship Group

Thank you for the beautiful tea that I attended as a guest of Margarett Chittenden.

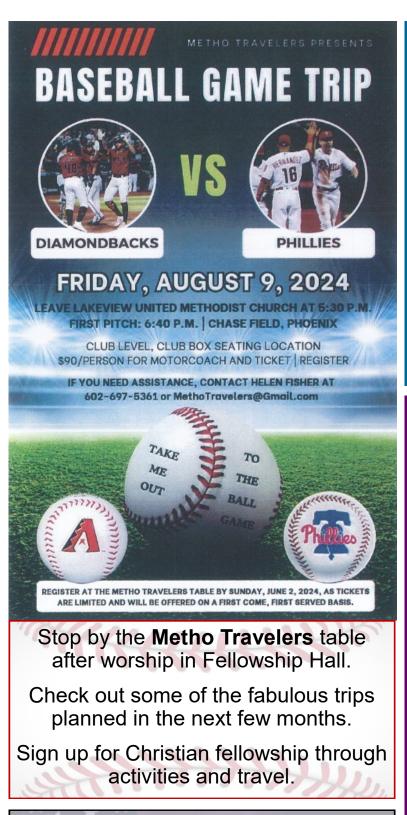
You provided a lovely occasion for everyone who attended.
You even provided decorated hats for us to wear.

The tables were decorated beautifully, and the food was delicious. I appreciate the opportunity to attend and hope you have another tea sometime in the future.

Sincerely, Irene Tyndell

# Thank you to everyone who helped make our First "High Tea" such a special event. Pictures from "High Tea" May 10, 2024





The Church Office will be closed on Thursday, July 4th in honor of Independence Day!



# Something to Celebrate!

June 8 marks
Cathy Murray's
10th Anniversary
as Organist
here at
First UMC
of Sun City!

Our thanks to her for ten years of blessing us each and every Sunday with wonderful music from the organ!
And for directing the Bell Choir!
And sharing her many talents and her lovely smile!

# Dear Pastor Kathleen & FUMC Members

Thank you for the opportunity to visit and talk about UMOM.

It was a pleasure!

Sincerely, Pastor Patricia Magyar, UMOM Chaplin

Thank you to everyone who donated to our UMOM Mother's Day Misson Project!

We received \$640 for Bibles, enough for at least 32 new Bibles and 158 children's books!



#### **ECUMENICAL**

We pray for the following congregations:

#### June

# **Sun City Congregations**

First UMC
Willowbrook UMC
Church of the Nazarene

# United Methodist Congregations in our District

Haven UMC, Jerome Lakeview UMC, Sun City Liberty UMC, Buckeye

# July

#### **Sun City Congregations**

First Presbyterian Church
Faith Presbyterian Church
Church of the Palms
United Church of Sun City
Unity Spiritual Center

# United Methodist Congregations in our District

Mission Bell UMC, Glendale Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood

# PRAYER REQUESTS How can we pray for you?

If you would like to be placed on the church Prayer List to receive an email when someone requests prayer, contact the church office with your name and email address and we will add you to the prayer list.

# THANK YOU... Italian Dinner Night was a huge success!

Thank you to
Sandy Martin, Colleen Becker and
everyone who helped cook, serve
and cleaned up. We had many
church members and community
members attend.

We hope to continue this tradition again in the future!

# CONDOLENCES & CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

To the family and friends of

Ross Rector
Who passed on
Monday, May 13, 2024.
Please hold his wife, Lenora Rector,
and family in prayer.
A Celebration of Life will be held
Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 10:00 am
in the Columbarium.

Judith Brown
Who passed on May 27, 2024.
Please hold her husband,
Tom Brown and family in prayer.

#### First UMC of Sun City 623 Prayer Commit to praying this prayer for our church at 6:23 am or pm



Gracious God, thank you for the
First United Methodist Church of Sun City.
Our future is in your hands.
We pray for your Spirit to break through.
Break through our fears.
Break through the obstacles.
Break through those things that keep us from being the church that you intend us to be.
May we step forward in faith and in hope, to be a beacon of light and life in our community.
In Jesus' name. Amen.



# **Summer Schedule**

#### **Sundays**

Sunday Worship 9:30 am

Fellowship Hour
Cookies & Coffee following Service
Communion on the First Sunday
of the Month

#### **Tuesdays**

Bible Study (starting July 9)

10:30 am Lillian Carver

Game Night 6:00 pm Lillian Carver Room

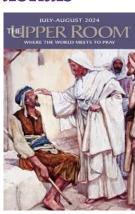
# **Fridays**

Second Friday Women's Fellowship 10:30 AM Lillian Carver Room

# **Daily Devotionals**

We encourage everyone to spend time in the Word of God each day.
One way to do this is using a devotional.

These devotionals can be found in the Narthex and Church office hallway.



Both regular and large print are available at no cost.

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP Matter's & is a real blessing!

Interested in becoming a member of

FUMC Sun City?

Interested in baptism?

The church office for more information. 623-974-3631

# TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY UPDATE

Please plan to meet with
Pastor Jody for a
"getting to know you" meeting,
Tuesday, July 9 at 10:30 am
in the Lillian Carver Room
to discuss ideas for future
studies.

The following week (Tuesday, July 16) will begin a new study series.

# PASTOR JODY'S OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY'S

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

#### THURSDAY'S

10:00 AM - 12:00 (NOON)

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Additional times may be available by appointment.



Join the fun and fellowship!
Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.
Lillian Carver Room
All are welcome, bring a friend!



Justa Center is in great need of food donations at this time. Because of the sky-rocketing prices of rents, each week they receive requests for assistance from more seniors who are becoming homeless.

Just a few cans of food donated would make a difference, enabling Justa Center to help more seniors. The items can be placed on the table in the Narthex and will be delivered every other week.

They especially need cans of vegetables, fruit, protein (such as tuna, chicken, beef), and cereal. They also need canes.





There is a complete list of needed items on the Justa Center table in the Narthex



# **Communication with FUMC Sun City**

Did you know there are many ways you are able to know what's going on at FUMC and to Communicate with us?

- Email office@fumcsuncity.com
- Our Website www.fumcsuncity.com
- Our Facebook Page (First United Methodist Church Sun City)
- Streaming of the Sermons on Facebook and YouTube
- An online version of *First Word* can be found on our web page. If you want one mailed, please let us know.
- Phone leave message on our voice mail after normal office hours.
- Online giving (link on our web page)

Please use the Church email: **office@fumcsuncity.com** for questions or to give us information like an address change or if someone is in the hospital.





2024 Desert Southwest Annual Conference
June 13-16, 2024



Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701

The 40th Session of the Desert Southwest Annual Conference will take place at the Tucson Convention Center on June 13-16, 2024.

Voting members will be 100% in-person this year.

Colleen Becker and Gerrie Wall will attend as Lay Representatives from First UMC of Sun City.

The event will be live streamed and available at https://dscumc.org/ac.

Bishop Carlo's invitation to Annual Conference notes this year's conference theme, "Making A Way," based on Jeremiah 29:4-7, 10-14 and Isaiah 43:18-19. Bishop Carlo reminds us that this year's conference marks the 40th anniversary of the Desert Southwest Conference, so it is time to reflect on our past and cast a vision for the next decade! Celebrate! Please keep Bishop Carlo and all the church leaders attending in your prayers.





#### General Conference Highlights

prepared by Rev. Corey Read, Arkansas Annual Conference updated 05/02/2024

#### Regionalization Passes by 78%

This means that while we will remain united by our shared doctrine and theology, this legislation will allow each area of the world to do ministry in its own context.

#### Full Communion with Episcopal Church Approved

This will allow for the sharing of clergy and recognition of sacramental rights.

\*Awaiting Episcopal Church Vote

# Lower Annual Conference Apportionments

U.S. Annual Conferences will be asked to pay lower apportionments compared to what delegates passed at the 2016 General Conference. Conferences will shift from the current base rate of 3.29% to a base rate of 2.6% for 2025 and 2026. Then, if the apportionment collection rate is 90% or higher in those years, the base rate will jump to 2.9% for 2027 and 2028.

# First Black Female President of the Council of Bishops

Bishop Tracy S. Malone, resident bishop of the East Ohio Conference, is the first black woman in the history of the worldwide denomination to be elected president of the Council of Bishops!

#### First Native American Bishop to Preside at General Conference

Bishop David Wilson, resident bishop of the Great Plains Conference was elected the first Native American Bishop in a historic election in 2022 and thus becoming the first bishop to preside at a General Conference in our history!

#### 40 Year Ban on Gay Clergy Lifted

With a 93% approval rate, General Conference votes to remove the ban on ordination of clergy who are "selfavowed practicing homosexuals."

In addition, delegates voted that superintendents are not to penalize clergy or churches for holding -- or refraining from holding -- same sex weddings.

#### Social Principles Revised

General Conference delegates supported a revision of the Social Principles that deletes the phrase "the practice of homosexuality... is incompatible with Christian teaching."

# Deacons Granted Sacramental Authority

Deacons can now offer Holy Communion and conduct baptisms where they have been appointed to serve, whether that is a church, outreach ministry or mission.

for more information, visit umcnews.org

**First United Methodist Church** 9849 N. 105th Avenue Sun City, AZ 85351



JULY 23 is the deadline to submit articles/events/news for the AUGUST Newsletter. Thank you!

#### First United Methodist Church

9849 N. 105th Avenue, Sun City, AZ 85351 623-974-3631

> Email: office@fumcsuncity.com Website: www.fumcsuncity.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcsuncity YouTube: www.youtube.com

The ministers of this church are its members. Those who assist and support them are:

Pastor Kathleen Puntar **Pastor** Gerrie Wall Lay Leader Matthew Marino **Music Director** Cathy Murray Organist, Handbell Director Kimberly Hill Office Manager Arne Kesler Bookkeeper

Mark Cwik Audio/Video Technician Lou Farrar

Groundskeeper/Maintenance

#### Pastor Kathleen's Cell #: 714-420-6094 pastork@fumcsuncity.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am - 2pm

#### **TELEWORSHIP**

Teleworship allows a person to dial a phone number remotely and listen to the worship service as it occurs.

Here's how it works:

- Call 623-777-3306 during the 9:30 am service.
- When prompted, enter extension 930 and wait for the prompt.
- Dial 536-545-940#

Join us for Worship Sundays - 9:30 am In Person and Online on Facebook and YouTube



