

The Evangel

First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

December 2020



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331 S Cooper Road
Gilbert, AZ 85233
480-892-9166

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
8:30am-4:30pm
by appointment
only

**Church office will be closed
December 24 and 25 for
Christmas Eve and Christ-
mas Day and January 1st
for New Years.**

Attendance
November . 29th
Virtual viewing 396



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF GILBERT

CAMPUS CLOSURE

The First UMC Gilbert Campus will be closed to all functions until further notice for COVID-19 considerations.

Offices are open by appointment only.

Please view gilbertumc.org for latest information.

Contact us at 480-892-9166 or info@gilbertumc.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday services will be livestreamed on Facebook at 9:30 am

Join us at gilbertumc.org or facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert



Senior Santa 2020

Hello! It's FUMC's Missions Committee's Senior Santa time again, and the seniors whose names have been collected by Home Instead are wishing for presents, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Be A Santa to a Senior program is run by Home Instead. The program benefits seniors in our area who may not receive a gift or who have little to no family contact for the holidays. Senior Santa at FUMC normally involves collecting a tag (or two) from the little Christmas tree on the patio. We will again have 50 names of seniors. However, because of the pandemic restrictions and the need to keep workers and frail seniors safe, all the giving will be on-line!

Home Instead has collected names and created an Amazon web site so that you can simply click on the link, select what you would like to purchase and then order and pay for it. The gifts will be sent directly to Home Instead. Workers at Home Instead will then wrap, label and deliver the presents in early December. **Last day for ordering gifts is December 3rd. Ship to address Amy Cunningham C/o Home instead 3850 E Baseline Rd. #128 Mesa, AZ 85206.**

Here is the link for our group: First United Methodist Church <https://a.co/e2ylixE>

If you have any questions, please reach out to Valerie Kellogg (480-250-6172, kellogg55@gmail.com.)

The Missions Team is inviting you to provide gifts

The missions team is inviting you to provide gifts for children in foster care that are close to aging out of the system. We are partnering with Arizona's Children Association's Gifts of Hope. Please click on the button below to view the online sign up sheet. Wrapped gifts may be brought to the church office by Friday, December 11. [Gifts of Hope](#)

Questions may be directed to Elice Province
@ 480-529-2687 or mission-
team@gilbertumc.org



Family Promise: We are scheduled to host families Dec 6-12.

We are still unsure at this time how involved we will be. It could be that we will only be providing meals as we did for our April and August rotations. More to come as we have that information.

We will also have an opportunity for you to choose a child to buy Christmas gifts. We will use "Sign Up Genius" and collect the gifts at church. @ 480-529-2687 or mission-
team@gilbertumc.org. Here is the link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10COD4DA9A62CA2FEC70-family>

Need to be delivered to the church by Dec. 16 th.

MISSIONS UPDATE

We're coming up on our busy season! We will get the specifics of each of the events below to you in the next month or so, but wanted to let you know what's in store.

Annual Turkey Drive

Was a success, and we delivered 121 boxes to families in Gilbert, Mesa and Chandler. We had 25 drivers helping out. We fell short of our \$5,000 goal, but there's still time for last minute contributions. Thank you! Here are some pics of your boxes going out to the families!





Thank you Church for your gifts! Here is the bounty you provided.....





In these times of Covid 19 rising numbers please watch our website and the E-news for the latest on the holiday worship schedule.

God is in control all the Time!
And it is ALL ABOUT HIM!



Congratulation Sylvia as she moves up into her journey of spreading God's Words...May He bless her abundantly!



November 22, 2020

Rev. Rick Casebolt
First United Methodist Church of Gilbert
331 S Cooper Rd.
Gilbert, AZ 85233

Dear Rev. Casebolt, Pastor Pate, Members and Friends of Gilbert First UMC:

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I am writing today to share some exciting news. Your church has been faithful in nurturing people in the faith and encouraging your members to listen to the call of Christ to serve through the ministries of the church in powerful ways.

For many years you have nurtured Sylvia Harris in her faith. You have been blessed by her leadership in your church as she served among you in a variety of important ways. You are aware that Sylvia has been attending seminary and you have voted to support her as a candidate for ordained ministry.

It is my joy to let you know that Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata intends to appoint Sylvia as an interim student local pastor at Wesley United Methodist Church in Phoenix, Arizona, serving less than full-time, beginning December 1, 2020. We know that the gifts she has shared with you will be a blessing to the Wesley UMC congregation.

As Sylvia takes this new step in her journey of faith we know that you will want to share your words of blessing with her for all that she has meant to you. We ask that you continue to support Sylvia with your love, wisdom, and support as she assumes her new role in ministry.

Please know that Bishop Bob and the entire appointive cabinet hold you in prayer, grateful for the ways that your church calls and encourages people to be fully engaged disciples of Jesus Christ.

May God's blessings and peace be with you.

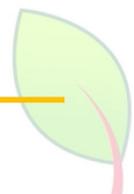
Your Sister in Christ,

Susan

N. Susan Brims
East District Superintendent

CC: Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata

www.dscumc.org/east
PO Box 32830, Phoenix, AZ 85064.
Rev. N. Susan Brims, District Superintendent
sbrims@dscumc.org
Cell Phone: 623.521.5253
Cynthia Holly, Administrative Assistant
cholly@dscumc.org
Office: 602.798.8239



Preschool News
www.gilbertpreschool.com



What's been going on?

In November:

We had a fun filled time learning about Apples and Turkeys. The preschool students enjoyed their pumpkin science activities including describing the inside and outside of the pumpkin, observing if a pumpkin will float or sink, and tasting pumpkin pie. The PreK students enjoyed their annual Thanksgiving feast by making a Friendship Mix out of a variety of cereals and candies. They shared their feast with a loving parent and Thanks and Fun was had by all. Finally, each preschool student made a special Thanksgiving placemat in the classroom to take home and use on Thanksgiving day!

In December:

The children will be very busy during the month of December. Two of our favorite activities are making and wrapping gifts for our families and celebrating Jesus in the classroom with a birthday party. We will also decorate ice cream cone Christmas trees with frosting and candies and make decorations for our class Christmas trees. Our letters for the month of December are S for Star, J for Jesus and K for King. We are looking forward to feeling the Christmas spirit this holiday season.



Enroll Today! We have openings for the spring session for Parent Tot. Registration packets will be available in November for classes that start in January. We'd love to have you as part of our preschool family! We also have two spots left in our MWF 3's class. If you're interested in more information, please check out our website- <http://gilbertumcpreschool.com/> or give us a call for a tour!



Community Rewards Program

- Shop at Fry's Food Stores with your VIP card and get great savings, earn fuel points, and help our church preschool. Just go online to FrysFood.com, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Fry's Community Rewards under Community. Log on to your account and search our organization number, **DM609**. You're all set! Your savings help us to earn money for our wonderful program. Thank you!

Advent Activities~ Try making an advent chain like this one. It's a great visual to countdown to Jesus' birth!



Advent Paper Chain

One Christmas night so long ago, a star shone down so all would know,
That in a manger, on that night, a savior was born, our guiding light.
Now Christmas time is almost here, a very special time of year,
When everyone anticipates, that night when we can celebrate.
As you remove a link each night, remember the start that shone so bright
And told the story of Jesus' birth, the Son of God, here on Earth!

REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin in January! We need your help to spread the word about our wonderful school. We'll have openings in Parent Tot, 3s and PreK. Everyone is welcome! Tell a friend, give us a call and come for a tour! More information about our programs is available online – gilbertumcpreschool.com

“The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with JOY” Psalm 126:3

If you have any questions about the preschool, please email preschool@gilbertumc.org or call 480-892-9166. Directors Lora Norris or Betsy Marlinga would love to speak with you!

December 2020 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

Preschool and Kinder



SERIES DESCRIPTION:

God loved the world so much that He gave us His only Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. That is what we are remembering as we share the Christmas story. When we celebrate Christmas, we are celebrating the magnificent love of the Creator for His creation.

WEEK ONE: The Angel and Mary — Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-49

WEEK TWO: Jesus Is Born * — Luke 2:1-7

WEEK THREE: The Shepherds — Luke 2:8-20

WEEK FOUR: Wise Men — Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus is God's

son.
 "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." John 3:16, GNT

**Zoom Sunday
 School Schedule**



preschool/kinder 8:30-9

1st-3rd 10:45-11:30

4th-6th 11:30-12:15

Wednesday Wilds

4 pm on Wednesday

1ST-6th Graders

SERIES DESCRIPTION:

The best gift God ever gave was Jesus. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we remember the Christmas story, we take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known .



CORE INSIGHTS

RESTORATION • CONNECTION

WEEK ONE: Jesus Is Promised — Isaiah 9:6

BOTTOM LINE: We can have hope because God keeps His promises.

WEEK TWO: Gabriel Appears to Mary — Luke 1:26-56

BOTTOM LINE: You can have joy because God has a plan for you.

WEEK THREE: Jesus Is Born — Luke 2:1-7

BOTTOM LINE: God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior

WEEK FOUR: Shepherds Visit — Luke 2:8-20

BOTTOM LINE: God's peace is for everyone

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11, NIV

Mission:

We are not collecting since we are only online.



Zoom Youth Sunday School

Youth Group/Sunday School!

Nov.8,2020, 7pm

We've combined Junior and Senior High Youth for awhile.

Please join us at 7pm this Sunday! Check youth news for the link each Sunday

Pictures from Nov. 7th, St. Vincent de Paul Mesa Garden Service Activity.....



We have been granted permission to have a small group volunteer at the Mesa Garden on Sat. Nov 7th.

8 students signed up to attend and we ask for limited carpooling from the church.

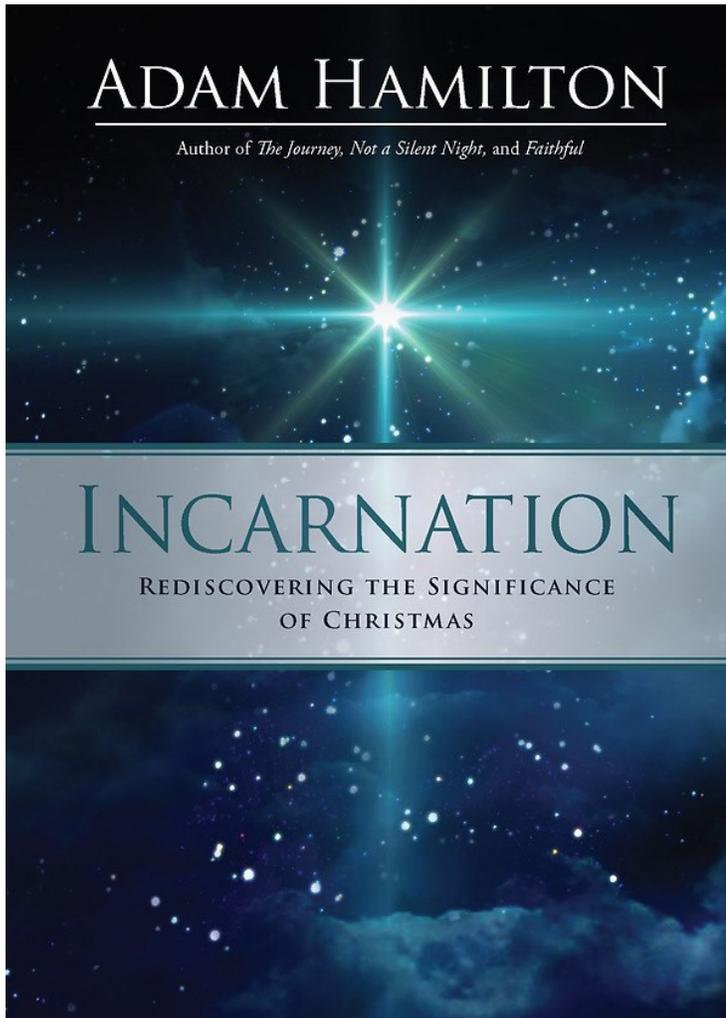


Follow us on Instagram@fumcgyouth

The whole leadership team and youth leaders are keeping you and your family in our prayers each week. Please reach out if you need anything

youthministry@gilbertumc.org !

Youth News • 7th-12th Grade



New Bible Study by the Pastor Rick and or Diamond

Virtual and /or in person class
led by the pastors on
Wednesday nights at 6:30

A 4 week course,
books available in the
church office at \$13.50 each.

Sign up now on our website.



Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:
(all small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

- Watch for the latest news and announces by the E-news every Thursday and prior to Sunday Services.
- We are praying for all of you and hoping to see you soon!
- Incarnation Bible study starts November 18 th at 6:30 pm and continues in December 2nd, 9th , and 16th . Please join us sign up to secure your place .
- The Church office will be closed December 24th and December 25th in observance Christmas Eve and Christmas Day also on January 1 in observance of New Years Day.
- Watch the e-news and our website for the latest news on the Holiday Worship Schedule.



All Saints Day Service November 1st 2020



**Julie Brooks
Hugh Doss
Ron Goslar
Dennis Greeley
Margaret Knoll
Marilyn Krueger
Noah Mendoza
Nancy Moberg
Leland Morrison
Bonnie Paisley
Diana Ramsey**



Entered digitally during service

Richard Justice	by Jeff Hendrickson
Rev. Nick Nichols	by Pastor Diamond
Guinnell Hunter	by Pastor Diamond
Ken Hill	by Susan Mix
John Hilbert	by Jeannie High
Elaine Lower	by Michelle Butler
Gary Thies	by Kim Bowers
Carol Lantz	by Kim Bowers
Phillip Francis	by Lori Wilkins
Joe Beitle	by Alice Van Orden
Inell Marshall	by Veronica Dailey
Jim Marker	by Jenny Vallera
Martin Grantham	by Jennifer Karavakis

Here is the link <https://a.co/e2ylixE>! Last day to order Dec.3rd shipping address is Amy Cunningham C/o Home Instead 3850 E. Baseline Rd. #128 Mesa AZ 85206

And make this Christmas for one senior warm and bright!



Gifts of Hope

We will be providing gifts for the Arizona's Children Association benefiting foster children. Watch for the sign up genius link on our website and drop off gifts at the church office by December 11th.

Gifts for the Family Promise children

We will provide gifts for Family Promise. We will also use sign up genius and collect the gifts at the church office before December 16th.





Prayers for those in need

During this time of uncertainty we will be still be praying for those in need so please either call or email prayer requests and we will send them out to our dedicated prayer team. The office number is 480-892-9166 or the email prayers@gilbertumc.org. If it is pastors only please mark **pastors only** and it will go only to the pastors.

And we will be praying for all the concerns and praises.

Your
Prayer Team



Looking for Gently Used Laptops & Computers

Have you bought a new computer, tablet, or laptop recently? If so, you may have your “old” equipment laying around and taking up space. Donate them to Church’s IT program and help us refresh some of the computer equipment around the church campus. Concerned about your data? We will

securely wipe your computer before using it, or give you a CD that you can use to wipe it yourself. Drop off computers and laptops at the Church Office.

Questions? Contact Philip Tesarek at ITSupport@gilbertumc.org or (480) 510-4588. Thank you!



Congregational Care Support Groups
For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Diamond at pastordiamond@gilbertumc.org or 480-892-9166

Grief Share Support Group will be online now



For those grieving the loss of someone close to them. This support group. Led by Kay Pealstrom is meeting on Saturdays from 9am-10:30am
New class starting January 2021

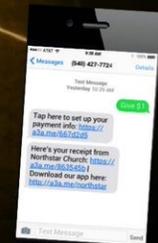
Living Hope

Living Hope Support Group

A group for those experiencing trauma or dealing with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). This group meets on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. (Small groups are contingent on the CDC guidelines)

Text-to-Give

- † Text 480-712-1057
- † Enter amount with \$ sign
for example: 
- For first usage only:
- † Register with link provided
- † Click "Process"



December Calendar of Events 2020

(All studies and small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Tuesday morning Bible study 9:00 	2 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	3 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30 	4	5 grief share Every Saturday 9:00-10:30
6 2nd Sunday of Advent	7	8 Tues Morning Bible 9:00 	9 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	10 Shawl Ministry 1:00 	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent	14	15 Tues Morning Bible 9:00 	16 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	17 Book Club 11:00 	18	19 Men's Breakfast 8-9:30 
20 4th Sunday of Advent	21	22	23 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	24 Church Office Closed the 24th and the 25th	25 Christmas Day 	26
27	28	29	30 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30 	31 New Years Eve 		

January Calendar of Events 2021

(All studies and small groups are contingent on the CDC recommendations.)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<p>Chat & Chew Wednesday Noon Room 133</p> 		<p>1 Church office closed</p> 	<p>2 Grief share Every Saturday 9:00-10:30 resumes soon</p>
3	4	<p>5 Tues Morning Bible 9:00</p> 	<p>6 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30</p>	<p>7 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30</p> 	8	9 Un-
10	11	<p>12 Tues Morning Bible 9:00</p> 	<p>13 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30</p> 	<p>14 Shawl Ministry 1:00</p> 	15	<p>16 Mens Breakfast 8-9:30</p>
17	18	<p>19 Tues Morning Bible 9:00</p> 	<p>20 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30</p>	<p>21 Book Club 11:00</p> 	<p>22 church office closed</p>	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December Birthdays



Terry Bowers	1
Andrew James	1
Ruby Rosemond-Taylor	1
Sarah Bowser	2
Michael Strazz	2
Alyssa Alls	3
Daniele Mendoza	3
Caleb Redman	4
Richard Staley	4
Jo Asplin	5
Edwin Ted Lillie	5
Abigail Koenig	6
Veronica Dailey	7
David A Mendoza	8
Miriam Phillips Gill	8
Al Reynolds	8
Linda Allen	10
John Holmberg	10
Christina Robertson Yoder	12
Alicia Hemingson	13
Isabel G Jordan	13
Alexandra Scharff	15
Kyera McCluskey	18
Reese Pinkstaff	19
Jonell Woolsey	19
Jacqueline Barnhart	20
George Dailey	20
Adam Sukis	20
Kwame Gardour	25
Lindsay Hydinger	27

Sylvia Harris	28
Sarah N. Shanks	29
Barbara Carroll	30
Phyllis Petrone	30
Jonathan Strom	30



December Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years Married
11	Lydia and Matt Ramirez	9
20	Jeni and Jeff Hemingson	17
21	Joyce and Donn Brown	62
21	Pam and Ed Stressman	52
24	Elizabeth and Carlos Flores	9
28	Wendy and Mike Griffith	37
31	Danielle and Christopher Mendoza	9

Birthdays / Anniversaries