# The Evangel First United Methodist Church of Gilbert



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Church office will be closed June 20th in observance of Juneteenth.



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

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm Friday by appointment only

Virtual viewing 98

#### A letter from Pastor Diamond ......

#### Good Morning Church!

Or whatever time of day you are reading this, I just couldn't break the tradition! As I write this, I am surrounded by boxes and procrastinating the daunting task of packing. Instead, I am reflecting on the wonderful 3 (almost 4!) years I have had in this space. As you know, in The United Methodist Church, pastoral appointments are the responsibility of the Bishop. A significant amount of prayer and consultation takes place before each pastor is assigned. The Staff Parish Relations Committee, the Pastor, and District Superintendent are all involved in that process. With God's guidance, the Bishop sets each appointment. This is our Wesleyan way. On May 12, 2018, the day after I graduated from seminary, I got the call that I was being appointed to First United Methodist Church of Gilbert. I had never even heard of Gilbert Arizona so my best friend and I did some google searching and fell in love with this town. Then I got to come and meet you all and it was even better. You all welcomed me so wholly, and Gilbert quickly became home. You all have taught me so much and helped shape and equip me to be the pastor I am today. Even during the difficulty of the COVID shutdown, we had to learn how to adapt and "do church differently" together.

It is the Bishop's intention that on July 1st, I will no longer be a pastor at First Gilbert and will become pastor at Federated Community Church in Flagstaff, AZ. I will miss you all and although I admit there is some uncertainty about this move, about the unknown, about leaving my friends in this community I have grown to love, I am excited about this next step in my pastoral journey. I will take the lessons I learned here and use them with my new congregation. Hopefully, they will get used to my 8 am enthusiasm as well!

I'm sure some of you have questions about what the new pastor will be like and how the church might change. Perhaps some of you are even grieving for my sake. We know God is faithful and knows what this church needs. Let's trust and be thankful for the time we've had together, and all that God has accomplished. Let's transform that anxiousness into excitement for new possibilities. I have complete confidence in Pastor Adriana and know that God has gifted her in many wonderful ways and I am excited that she will get to share them with you now. I will no longer be your pastor once I leave this appointment. It will be time for you all to welcome Pastor Adriana just as fully as you integrated me into the life of the church. Pastor Adriana was called from this place; you sent her forth to Globe with your blessings; and now it is time for her to return and enter this space with new energy to continue to move this community forward. So as difficult as this appointment process may feel, with this constant moving of pastors, God had each of us right where and when God wanted us to be.

"Seek the Kin-dom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need." Luke 12:31 Blessings during this time and go with the love of God and share it with everyone you meet.

-Pastor Diamond

#### New Service Times Start June 12th: 8:00am 9:30 am

We are excited to announce a return to our prior worship times! Beginning Sunday June 12, the first service will begin at 8:00 am, and the second service will begin at 9:30 am. Think of it as going back to the future!

This means our sisters and brothers from Resurrection Episcopal Church can move their Sunday worship from the Activity Center to the Sanctuary at 11:00 am. This will make for a better environment for their Sunday worship, and also allow our ministries to resume full use of the Activity Center.

Please note that the Nursery will be open for both services, and Sunday School will begin at 9:30 am. Other Sunday groups may also change meeting times – please ask your group leader for specifics. While change can sometimes be annoying, embrace the good that it can bring! You are invited to share your questions and comments with Pastor Rick at <u>pastorrick@gilbertumc.org</u>



# In memory of Molly Hahn



# Mother's Day Purse Drive!

Thank you for your donations!

time for Mother's Day. Thank you to Paige Cantwell and the missions team for their leadership. **Thank you** to all the donors that continue to support this important ministry and the other ministries like it here at First Gilbert.

### Mother 's Day Purse Drive

Thank you so much to all of you who supported our Mother's Day Purse Drive. We were able to collect 80 purses! We donated the fully packed purses to the UMOM women's shelter on Tuesday, just in





## **Trapper Keeper**. Drive

We hope that we can once again help out the children attending Gilbert Elementary by providing them with the tools they need to be successful. If you would like to donate, you can either send a check to the church with "backpack" written in the memo or you can donate through online giving by selecting the Outreach Ministries/ Mission Section. Then we will get the exact ones that the teachers want for the kids. Any amount of donation is very much appreciated! **Donations due by July 15th**.









# SSP (Sierra Service Project) Summer 2022

### The news we've been waiting for! We've been selected for the Smith River, CA

location which is on the CA/OR boarder near the coast... It will be a **LONG** drive, but we can make this a fun road-trip and hopefully a very meaningful week of service!

Plan for approximately July 8-July 17!

Currently the spaces will be for current 8-12th graders, however that is subject to change once we see how many are signed up. Please call/email Shayla for more details (youthministry@gilbertumc.org). Thank you!



Photos of May Youth Activities: May 7<sup>th</sup>- Youth volunteered at St. Vincent de Paul Mesa Garden May 15<sup>th</sup>- Youth Group at Skateland





# Graduates 2022 First Gilbert UMC Congratulations to All!



## ANDREW JAMES

PROUD PARENTS: DEEN AND SUSAN JAMES

GRADUATING FROM: MESA HIGH SCHOOL IN MESA, AZ

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

GOING TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE IN BILLINGS, MONTANA HE WILL BE STUDYING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND PLAYING FOOTBALL.



## ASHLEY SCHARFF

PROUD PARENTS: ERIK AND TIFFANY SCHARFF

GRADUATING FROM: WILLIAMS FIELD HIGH SCHOOL AND EVIT (WHERE IS SHE IS NOW AN APPROVED VETERINARY ASSISTANT)

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

ASHLEY PLANS TO GO TO COLLEGE TO STUDY VET MEDICINE. SHE IS ALREADY WORKING AT A FIRST PET VETERINARY CLINIC.





#### PROUD PARENTS: KEVIN AND BETH BOESCH

GRADUATING FROM: BASHA HIGH SCHOOL IN CHANDLER, AZ

#### WHAT NEXT?

CHLOE PLANS TO ATTEND ALBRIGHT COLLEGE IN READING, PA TO PURSUE A DEGREE IN PHYSICS.



CONNOR JOHNS

PARENTS: JIM AND DORINDA JOHNS

GRADUATING FROM: GILBERT CLASSICAL ACADEMY IN GILBERT, AZ

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

CONNER WILL ATTEND ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY TO STUDY SPORTS BUSINESS.



## TREVOR JAMES SNYDER

PROUD PARENTS: JEFF AND KATHY SNYDER

GRADUATING FROM: GILBERT CLASSICAL ACADEMY IN GILBERT, AZ

> WHAT'S NEXT? TREVOR PLANS TO ATTEND UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA.





College Grads 2022



LAUREN GILL

PROUD PARENTS: STAN AND MIRIAM GILL

GRADUATING FROM: STANFORD UNIVERSITY WITH BS CIVIL ENGINEERING

#### WHAT'S NEXT?

STANFORD UNIVERSITY MS CIVIL ENGINEERING - SUSTAINABLE DESIGN





PROUD PARENTS: PHILLIP AND ERNESTINE TESAREK

GRADUATED FROM: UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA BS IN BIOLOGY WITH MINOR IN STUDIO ART

WHAT'S NEXT?

NOW WORKING AS LICENSED CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT FOR BANNER HEALTH

PLANNED ADMISSION TO PHYSICIANS ASSISTANT (PA) PROGRAM IN 2023



Preschool Year End Program "I AM SPECIAL"





### Welcome the new Director of the preschool



Please help us welcome our new director, Lisa DePalma, the preschool office assistant Ellie Koenig and two new prek teachers, Jennifer Armstrong and Robyn Nargren. They have all been working alongside the preschool staff during the last few weeks to ensure a smooth transition. Our new staff members are all very excited to be part of the preschool family!



## Good Bye and Blessings in your new endeavors !



You all will be missed.

This upcoming school year will be our first time in quite a while with staff s. We wish the following teachers



well as they start a new journey: Sarah Metz, our prek teaching assistant will be moving to Tennessee with her family,

Kari Green, our prek teacher will be teaching Kindergarten in the Gilbert School District, and Betsy Marlinga, prek teacher and educational director will be teaching a preschool autism class also in the Gilbert School District.





Lora Norris & Betsy Marlinga , Directors www.gilbertpreschool.com 480-892-9166

## Preschool News www.gilbertpreschool.com





1" United Methodist Churcl

Gilbert Preschool

spreading God's love



### Thank you!

We have been teaching preschoolers since 2005 here at church! Each class has been treasured and such a JOY to teach! What a blessing to have this ministry at our church. Thank you to all of the people who support and encourage us!







#### **Last Month**

During our last few weeks in school, we enjoyed a beautiful end of year performance in the sanctuary. Our theme was "I Am Special." The children sang songs for their loved ones, recited their favorite bible verse, watched a slideshow that included all the students in the school and then enjoyed a cookie in the courtyard!

Preschoolers also shared a beautiful spring morning together with their moms! Muffins with Moms was a big hit! All classes shared a morning snack in the grassy courtyard and the children gave their mothers a gift that they had made. Everyone had a wonderful time together!







## Registration for 2022-2023

At this time all our classes are full. However, we do have a waitlist started for each class and will continue offering tours. Sometimes plans change over the **summer** and spots open up. Please continue to share with others about our preschool. Our program teaches children about Jesus' love and prepares them academically, socially and emotionally for elementary school. Check out our website at <u>www.gilbertumcpreschool.com</u> or call 480 892 9166 for more information!

#### Details about the start of the school year

Enrolled students will receive an email in late June about class placement, Open House and the first days of school. We are already excited to begin another awesome year of preschool!

#### **Summer Fun Ideas**

Spending time together is the most special part of the summer! Keep the activities simple and just enjoy them.

- Blow Bubbles
- Go on a Nature walk in the morning and find each of the colors of the rainbow
- Paint with water on the back porch
- Have a dance party!
- Make a cave or fort by covering the kitchen table with several sheets, have a picnic in there!
- Make Moon Sand

#### **BASIC SUPPLIES:**

Flour (or rice flour for a gluten-free option)

Oil (most tutorials online suggest baby oil, but if you're worried about your kids putting this in their mouths, coconut and vegetable oils work exactly the same way and are taste-safe)

#### **OPTIONAL SUPPLIES:**

Food coloring or Kool-Aid packets (2-3 packets for every 2 cups of flour for bright, vibrant colors) ADDITIONAL SUPPLIES FOR PLAY:

- Buckets, pails
- Sand and water toys
- Toy cars and trucks

#### **DIY Moon Sand Instructions:**

- 1. Mix the ingredients in a large bowl
  - You want an 8:1 ratio of flour to oil. So 4 cups flour and 1/2 cup oil, 8 cups flour and 1 cup oil, etc.
    - Mix them together (with color if desired) until the flour still feels silky and sandy, but will hold a shape if you squeeze it in your hands.
- Move to a large bin or tray Pour your moon sand into a large bin or tray for indoor or out door play

3. Add toys and play!

You can use this as a fun sensory experience all on its own, or add tools or toys to a bin or tray for play.

# If you have any questions about the preschool, please email <u>preschool@gilbertumc.org</u> or call 480-892-9166. Director Lisa DePalma would love to speak with you!

# June 2022 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

#### **Preschool and Kinder**



#### **SERIES DESCRIPTION:**

Have you ever seen the commercial where one person does something kind? Then, a person who witnesses this kindness, is motivated to do something kind. Followed by another person seeing this kindness who feels moved to also be kind. It's not just in commercials. It's in real life, too. Waves of generosity. Lives changed. And, it all begins with one act of kindness.

WEEK ONE: We Love Because God Loves Us 1 John 4:9-13

Week 2: Paul and Silas in Prison Acts 16:16-34 Week 3: Abigail Intervenes 1 Samuel 25:1-35 Week 4: Simeon at the Temple Luke 2:22-39

WEEK FIVE: God Rested \* — Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

BOTTOM LINE: Jesus can help me do everything.

""I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH CHRIST, WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH." PHILIPPIANS 4:13, NLT

> Weds Wilds at 6:30pm in room 205 Kinder-6th graders. Register online On our website. We need this to be prepared for the children please.

#### **1ST-6th Graders**



#### SERIES DESCRIPTION:

We were created in God's image. God sent Jesus to show us the best way to be human. But God knew we'd need help. That's why God sent us the Holy Spirit. With the power of the Spirit, we can produce fruit that points others to Jesus. Every month, kids discover something about God's character and how they can reflect or respond to that character because they are created in God's image.

Week One: We Love Because God Loved Us 1 John 4:9-13 Bottom line: Love others because God loves you.

Week 2: The Apostles Are Treated Badly Acts 5:17-42 Bottom line: Choose joy no matter what is going on.

Week 3: Abigail Intervenes 1 Samuel 25:1-35. Bottom Line: You can help others make peace. Week 4: Patience Principle Proverbs 15:18 Bottom line: Be patient with each other. MEMORY VERSE

"THE FRUIT THE HOLY SPIRIT PRODUCES IS LOVE, JOY AND PEACE. IT IS BEING PATIENT, KIND AND GOOD. IT IS BEING FAITHFUL AND GENTLE AND HAVING CONTROL OF ONESELF." GALATIANS 5:22-23A, NIRV

WHAT YOU DO TODAY CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

Mission: School supplies for Items like pencils, colored pencils, glue, erasers, crayons, and extra notebook Paper.



#### Youth Ministries at 1st UMC Gilbert, appreciates all of Our Youth Ministry Volunteers!

First and foremost, we must recognize Ron Mason and Cindie Rempel who

have been our fearless Sunday School teachers/Youth Leaders for many years! 1st UMC Gilbert Youth would not be the same without these two beautiful people pouring into our youth every week! Their commitment to our youth is steadfast and we are so thankful and blessed with their service! These two amazing humans are helping our youth grow into incredible young adults. Thank you for sharing your servant hearts and teach us about the importance of serving others- being HIS hands and feet in the world! Thank you Ron and Cindie!

Thank all of the youth parents for supporting our program and bringing your youth to activities each week!

Thank you to the whole Congregation here at 1st UMC Gilbert for emotional and financial support of the ministry and mission projects of the youth!

A big THANK YOU to all the adults who have served on Youth Council and dedicated your time, talent, and energy to making Youth events happen! Thank you Sarah Metz for serving on Youth Council for many years! Thank you Janet Bose for leading Youth Council for many years, carrying the lead in between youth directors, and continuing to serve currently! Thank you Alex Houseman for jumping in when needed and for serving on Youth Council.

Thank you to the following families: Hemingsons, Butlers, Carpenters, Valleras, Wyatts, Chiricuzios and Scharffs for jumping in to help the past few years!

I am sure I am forgetting some and for that I am sorry. I am just incredibly thankful to everyone for supporting the Youth Program here at 1st UMC Gilbert. Thank you!

Shayla Paap

#### SAVE THE DATE MORE UPCOMMING YOUTH EVENTS

#### (Activities are tentative and times TBD- keep watching Youth News for details)

June and July- Summer Volleyball (Sunday afternoons-watch the weekly Youth Newsletter for

details!)

June 4th Game Night 4-6:30 pm

June 5th- VBS Volunteer Meeting (Lunch and Set-Up) also Youth Volleyball

at Dayspring UMC 6-8:30 pm

June 6-10th Volunteer at VBS, 9am-12pm

June 11th Sat Volunteer tour at UMOM

June 12th Volleyball at FUMCG4;30-6pm

June-July 2022, Mingus Mountain Summer Camps, multiple weeks available (click here for dates

and details)



#### Follow us on Instagram@fumcyouth

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 !



#### The Book Corner

June's book is <u>The Pull of the Stars</u> by Emma Donoghue

> Geri will be leading the review of this fiction book which was published in 2020

The Book Club will meet June 16th at 11:30 in Room 130 and on zoom.

July's book will be <u>The Last Year of the War</u> By Susan Meissner

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our next book is The Case for Heaven by Lee Strobel starting on May 24, 2022 at 9:15 social time, prayers and praises ). Same format as before (in person only) no masks required (but highly recommended) with large group video then small group discussion. Please let me know if you want the

book (so we can order enough) and if you need nursery care (so I can let those that arrange that, know.) Please share with friends/neighbors that might be interested in joining our multi denominational Christian group. Through fascinating conversations with respected scholars and experts--a neuroscientist from Cambridge University, a researcher who analyzed a thousand accounts of near-death experiences, and an atheist-turned-Christian-philosopher--Strobel offers compelling reasons for why death is not the end of our existence but a transition to an exciting world to come. Looking at biblical accounts, Strobel unfolds what awaits us after we take our last breath and answers questions like:

- Is there an afterlife?
- What is heaven like?
- How will we spend our time there?
- And what does it mean to see God face to face?

With a balanced approach, Strobel examines the alternative of Hell and the logic of damnation, and gives a careful look at reincarnation, universalism, the exclusivity claims of Christ, and other issues related to the topic of life after

death. With vulnerability, Strobel shares the experience of how he nearly died years ago and how the reality of death can shape our lives and faith. Contact Sonja Ruhland at Sonja.ruhland@gmail.com



#### Mark your calendar for these other upcoming events:

- Chat and Chew meets every Wednesday at 12:00 in Room 136 Bring your own lunch and join us for fellowship.
- June 2nd at 9:30 am Christian Women's Fellowship meets in Room 130.
- Family Game Night at 6:30 PM in the Activity Center. Come and join the fun bring your games and family. Bring your favorite game and joins use for snacks, popcorn, lemonade and fun!
- June 5th is Pentecost .
- VBS Make Waves is June 6th-10th 2022! Volunteers needed!
- UMC Annual Conference at Mesa Convention Center June 10-11.
- June 12th is Trinity Sunday.
- Book Club Meets June 16th at 11:30 am in Room 130 June's book is <u>The Pull of the</u> <u>Stars</u> by Emma Donoghue
- June 19th is Father's Day. Don't forget Dad and Grandpa!
- Church office is closed June 20th in observance of Juneteenth.
- Church office will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day.
- Save the Date July 23,2022 for Summer Potluck more infor to follow ......









#### Prayers for those in need



During this time of uncertainty we will 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 <u>prayers@gilbertumc.org</u>. If It is pastors only request please mark pastors only and it will given to the pastors.

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



Your Prayer Team



Bring your favorite game!

Saturday, June 4 at 6:30pm in the Activity Center

We'll have snacks, popcorn, lemonade, and fun!

VBS is coming in Just .....



Just Two weeks.....

Count down to Fun!!!!







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

Grief Share Support Group will be In person at Sunrise Assisted Living Center All Are Welcome 580 S Gilbert Rd, Gilbert, AZ 85296

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them. This support group. Led by Kay Pealstrom <u>kpealstrom@aol.com</u> is meeting on Saturdays from 9am-10:30am Masks Required Workbook and class materials required





## Living Hope Support Group

A group for those experiencing trauma or dealing with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder). If you are inserted in his group please contact Pastor Diamond at pastordiamond@gilbertumc.org.



#### June Calendar of Events 2022





### July Calendar of Events 2022



# June Birthdays



Debby Munn	1
Betty Walker	2
Dianna Elliott	3
Vicki Hanson	3
Therese Pineda	3
Barry Turnrose	3
Heather Ford	4
Gary Whitlock	4
Ashley Scharff	7
Mark Turner	7
Keith Carpenter	11
Alexis Eggen	11
Riley Fairley	12
Sylvia Moore	12
Karen Coleman	13
Chloe Metz	13
April Daugherty	15
Christie Dorf	15
Ed Stressman	19
Hannah Becker	20
Linda Martell	21
Richard Anthony	22
Gayle Disch	22
Erna Huitema	22
Kalia Carpenter	24
Darlene Whitlock	24



Nicholas Diaz	25
Kingston Gardour	25
Karla Romfo	28
Larsen Hemingson	30



## **June Anniversaries**

Date	Sweet Couple	Years
		Married
03	Laura Dean Boever	27
03	Darlene and Gary Whitlock	51
06	Carolyn and Roy Phelps	58
09	Cindie and Jason Rempel	21
14	Therese and Albert Pineda	26
19	Chris and Craig Thompson	51
20	Kathryn and Barry Turnrose	47
24	Judy and Tom Bristow	56
24	Jeanne and Larry Randolph	50
25	Glenda and Bill Warren	45
30	Linda and Tom McKinley	36

