The Evangel First United Methodist Church of Gilbert September 2023

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

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

Attendance August 20th 140

Virtual viewing 125

Divina Katching



The Joy of Baptism

On July 25, 2023 sweet Hillel Olawale Agbatchi was baptized. His proud parents, Yasmine and Serge Agbatchi, were all smiles as this young man received this cherished sacrament. This is one of the most precious ways we are connected as a church family.

OUR CHURCH NEEDS A NEW DIRECTORY! YUP, THAT'S OUR BIG ANNOUNCEMENT **HELPED NEEDED:** Marketing/Social Media • Photographers Data Organization • Web Design Skills **Call church office** 480-892-9166 Looking for volunteers to start building new directory in October!

TRUNK or TREAT

Let's Get Ready toTrunk or Treat! Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Join us on Halloween for a safe event that is fun for the whole family! Please print out the graphic to invite your neighbors and friends – this is a safe way to enjoy Halloween, and everyone is welcome.



This is an event that opens up our church campus to the community in a way that is festive, fun, and an amazing sense of connection. September is a month of planning, there are many different ways that you can help.

Give out candy from your car!

We need a lot of trunks this year! Utilize your imagination to decorate the trunk of your vehicle. The most creative trunk wins a prize and the coveted Trunk or Treat traveling trophy! Church provides the candy.

We need your help!

Volunteers are needed to help set up earlier in the day, hand out candy from their trunk, welcome families, hand out hot dogs, and clean up. We are also seeking donations of candy, chips, and water bottles.

Children's Ministry

Janelle Chiricuzio, Director childrenministry@<u>gilbertumc</u>.org

Pictures from Back to School Bash







Fall 2023 Studies

It always seems strange to type the word "Fall" when it is 110 degrees outside. In addition to soaring temperatures, Summertime is a time for travel, family outings, backyard bbqs, and swimming! As children return to school, calendars fill out with non-Summer items. We take a turn to think about scheduling time to meet in small groups and find a study that fills something the Holy Spirit is prompting (or pushing) each of us to do. It is time for the Adult Ministry team to share what you could add to your calendar.

We are using Survey Monkey for registration. Please utilize the link below to register. If you prefer, please contact the church office to register.

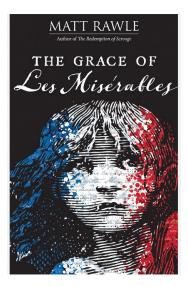
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M3XCNFN

The following are classes scheduled to start soon. There is more to come! Working on an all on-line study that will launch in late September or October. Also, if you are interested, First Gilbert is looking for someone to lead a male bible study group. Pastor Adriana will help with any preparation and study material but we need someone willing to lead the group. The date and time of the class would be completely up to the facilitator.

The Grace of Les Miserables

Victor Hugo's Les Miserables is a truly epic story. In this seven week study **The Grace of Les Miserables**, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story – grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope – each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together out in the world. This study will kick-off with a screening of this classic musical. The class will watch the 2012 version featuring Hugh Jackman, Anne Hathaway, Russell Crow, Amanda Seyfried, Helena Bonham Carter and more. This class will be led by Jan Casebolt. Study books are available, just let the office know if you need one.

Thursday, August 31st 6:30pm– Watch Les Miserables Thursday, September 7th 6:30pm– Grace Thursday, September 14th—No class Thursday, September 21st 6:30pm– Justice Thursday, September 28th 6:30pm– Poverty Thursday, October 5th 6:30pm– Revolution Thursday, October 12th – No Class Thursday, October 19th 6:30pm– Love Thursday, October 26th 6:30pm– Hope



We Make the Road by Walking

This book explores a brilliant retelling of the biblical story and a thrilling reintroduction to Christian faith. Author Brian McLaren provides weekly readings and offers simple insightful reflections and transformative practices.

Pick up a copy of the book or download the audible version and join *Pastor Rick on Wednesday nights at 6:30 beginning August 30th in room 130.* This is a class that is formatted for you to join in as your schedule allows. This class is in person but also available via zoom.

Wednesday, August 30th 6:30pm Wednesday, September 6th 6:30pm Wednesday, September 13th 6:30pm Wednesday, September 20th 6:30pm Wednesday, September 27th 6:30pm Wednesday, October 4th & 11th—No class Wednesday, October 18th 6:30pm Wednesday, October 25th 6:30pm

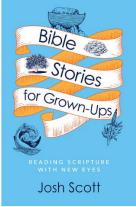
In *Bible Stories for Grown-Ups: Reading Scripture with New Eyes* pastor Josh Scott looks at familiar Bible stories and reveals new details and interpretations for an adult audience. This sex-week Bible study will consider stories many read as children including Noah's Ark, the binding of Isaac, Jonah and the big fish, Jesus and Zacchaeus, Jesus healing a blind man, and the parable of the talents. Scott reimagines these stories and opens new visions for readers to understand well known pieces of Scripture in our current cultural environment. This class will be led by pastor Adriana Hernandez. Study books are available, just let the office (or Adriana) know if you need one. This class is held on Sundays at 11am.

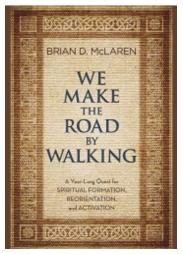
Sunday, September 10th 11am– Chapter 1 Sunday, September 17th 11am– Chapter 2 Sunday, September 24th 11am– Chapter 3 Sunday, October 1st 11am– Chapter 4 Sunday, October 8th – No Class Sunday, October 15th 11am– Chapter 5 Sunday, October 22nd 11am– Chapter 6

Choir Sunday School

Sundays at 9:45am in room 130, the choir meets weekly. This group facilitates their own bible study. Although primarily choir members, anyone is welcome to join them.









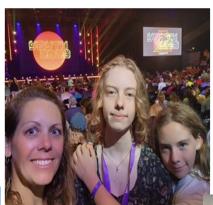


Youth 2023 Daytona Beach, FL



July 23-27th, 123 youth and leaders from the Desert Southwest Annual Conference, from churches all over Arizona, traveled together from Phoenix to Florida. 1st Gilbert helped send 2 youth and a leader as part of this group. Youth 2023 is an event put on by Discipleship Ministries once every 4 years as a national connectional event for youth United Methodist Church. The trip started with 1 day to play at Universal Studios which was great fun. The rest of the week at Youth 2023 in Daytona Beach Florida was such an amazing opportunity for these youth to connect with other youth from around AZ and all over the country, learn more about the UMC organization and structure, hear from so many amazing speakers, and attend various workshops to learn about different areas of ministry, social justice, how to develop their faith and more! One highlight was attending Sunrise Communion on the beach each morning, what an incredible experience! The whole Desert Southwest group had the opportunity to pack food with 'Rise Against Hunger' one afternoon, and an unexpected opportunity to meet Bishop Carlo! He and his wife are lovely! The band 'Rend Collective' put on a great show one one night and afternoons were spent splashing at the beach. We're so thankful for the experience of Youth 2023!













missions@gilbertumc.org



Summer-time Mission Opportunities

Heat Center Collection Items: The Mission Team has been collecting bottled water and sunscreen. These items were distributed to local Heat Centers that provide supplies to homeless individuals during these critically hot months in Arizona. Donations have been distributed to the Justa Center and the Wesley UMC Heat Center. Thank you for your tremendous support!

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DSC VIM and You

We all want to help but sometimes we don't have the time and when we do have the time we don't have the money......So it goes. The Volunteers in Mission of the Desert Southwest Conference, have been asked to assist our neighbor, the **New Mexico Conference** with a special need in Chinle, Arizona. As a result of major flooding after the collapse of a berm and early snow melt in April, significant damage occurred in the Chinle Chapter of the Navajo **Nation**. We already sent a disaster relief team to the area in late June. The ongoing need is to repair trailers and hogans before the monsoon season. We have some volunteers ready to go to Chinle, but as of now the only work we could tackle would be the cutting of trees. The cutting can be accomplished by volunteers as the Chapter has access to chain saws we may use. However, the work of repairing trailers and hogans, including repair/replace porches is on hold until we are able to secure funds for the necessary materials. UMCOR is working directly with the Chapter President, Dr. Jumbo-Fitch for help with plumbing supplies but I am not certain as to the timing of those funds.

Thus..... The Challenge.....

Researching supply needs and pricing we have come up with a unique way you can help.

- Side Panels (4' x 8' sheets) for trailers or hogans \$33 each, that is only \$1.03 per square foot. We could use 20 sheets. How many square feet would you like to gift to the Chapter in Chinle?
- Lumber: 2" x 6" pressure treated is only \$1.21 per linear foot or less. For a 10' x 12' porch we need 200 linear feet for each porch.

How many linear feet can you support?? More information can be found on ways to help at dscumc.org/blog/2023/08/21/chinle-vim-challenge/

alzheimer's Ω association[•]

800.272.3900 | alz.org*

Desert Southwest Chapter Programs & Services

A guide to support individuals, families, and friends impacted by dementia

People with Alzheimer's and related dementias and their families and friends can feel overwhelmed, but no one needs to go on this journey alone. We offer a variety of free programs, services, and resources to help cope with all aspects of the disease and its progression.

24/7 HELPLINE

Call **800.272.3900**, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to speak confidentially with a Care Consultant. These professionals provide support, information about Alzheimer's and related dementias, guidance on care options, help with planning for the future, coaching for family members, strategies to address safety concerns, and referrals to local resources. Support is free of charge and offered in over 200 languages.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Support Groups provide a forum to share feelings, concerns, information, and learn new skills. The Desert Southwest Chapter offers over 50 support groups, in English and Spanish, across Arizona and southern Nevada. All of our support groups are facilitated by trained individuals and meet at various locations and times. Most groups are for family and friends supporting a loved one with dementia, but there are also groups designed specifically for individuals with early stage dementia. Call 800-272-3900 or visit: alz.org/dsw/supportgroups to find a group near you.

EDUCATION

Our educational programs increase awareness and knowledge about Alzheimer's and related dementias. Session topics include an introduction to the disease, addressing behavioral challenges, long-term planning, and much more. Almost all of our educational presentations are offered in English and Spanish. Call 800-272-3900 or visit: alz.org/dsw/education for more information.

EARLY STAGE

Early Stage programs provide a variety of education sessions and activities designed to actively engage, empower, and encourage individuals with Early Stage Alzheimer's and their care partners. Call 800-272-3900 for more information.

FIRST RESPONDERS TRAINING

The Alzheimer's Association's Approaching Alzheimer's: First Responder training is a free online course to prepare first responders to respond to common calls involving a person with dementia. For more information, call 800-272-3900 or alz.org/firstresponders

LOVE TO SING?

Contact Randy at musicdirector@gilbertumc.org or call office at 480-892-9166

Join ...!!



Inserted in Playing Bells in Church?

Contact Marilyn Harter and she will sign you up Practice Wednesday at 5:30 PM in the choir room.

Marilyn can be reached at 480-330-9238 or MarilynHarter@gmail.com

Children's Choir Begins Sunday 27 of August Meet in Room 130 after 9:30 SERVICE



Director Randall Van Der Pol contact at Music director @gilbertUMC.org

Preschool News



EMC of Gilbert Preschool

Gilbe **(**school @g



What a great start to the school year!

We had a lot of fun these first few weeks of school. Our classrooms are filled with 3, 4, and 5 year olds, with both new and returning families.

During August, the students and teachers spend time getting to know one another, learn the classroom routine and behavior expectations. On the third week of school, we dove into academics, learning about God's Creations.

Coming up we will be learning new letters and stories from the bible: N, for Noah's Ark, R for the Rainbow, God's promise and Q for Queen Ester.

We will be making and sharing a favorite FUMCG snack together "Rainbow Bread".



Bible Verse - "Obey your Father and Mother for this is right." Ephesians 6:1



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 **FrysCommunityRewards.com**, log in to your account, scroll down to community rewards, and type in **80635** and click save. You're all set! Your savings help us to earn money for our wonderful program. Thank you!



Missions- This month we will be collecting snacks for our preschool pantry. We appreciate your donations. Thank you!

Grandparents' Day Breakfasts- September 12th and 13th.

We love our Grandparents and special loved ones! They bring love and sunshine into our lives. The preschoolers will host their

special person on one of these mornings in the Activity Center. They will sing a special song, eat a breakfast snack, play a game and spend some memorable time together.



If you have any questions about the preschool, please email preschool@gilbertumc.org or call 480-892-9166. Lisa DePalma or Ellie Koenig would love to speak with you!

September 2023 Children's Ministry What's Happening?

Preschool



SERIES DESCRIPTION:

God knows everything. God knows how things work. God knows how we feel. God knows how it's going to turn out. God knows what will happen if we go this way . . . or that way. Add to it that God loves us and we truly can trust that God knows what's best for us. CORE INSIGHT: Connection

WEEK ONE: In the Garden (Genesis 1:31, 2:8-3:24) WEEK TWO: Moses and the Sea (Exodus 13:17-18, 14) WEEK THREE: Jonah* (Jonah 1:1– 3:10) WEEK FOUR: Naaman (2 Kings 5:1-14) BOTTOM LINE: God knows what's best for me. MEMORY VERSE: "God...knows everything." 1 John 3:20, NIV

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.

Grades1-6



SERIES DESCRIPTION

God created us for community. Jesus showed us the greatest example of this. With His words, actions, and love, Jesus made people feel like they belonged. We reflect Jesus' love best when we treat one another with friendship.

CORE INSIGHTS: Community, Compassion

WEEK ONE: Two People Are Better Than One (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)Bottom Line: Choose your friends carefully. WEEK TWO: David and Mephibosheth (1 Samuel 19-20; 2 Samuel 9)Bottom Line: Friends keep their promises. WEEK THREE: Barnabas and Saul(Acts 9:26-30)Bottom Line: Friends stand up for one another.

WEEK FOUR: Forgive One Another (Colossians 3:13)Bottom Line: Friends forgive one another.

MEMORY VERSE: "A friend loves atall times. They are there to help when trouble comes."Proverbs 17:17, NIrV

Mission:



Jr. High Sunday School Room #200 with Ron During the 10am Service Sr High Sunday school in Sr high room #201-202 with Ms. Cindie

*** New Youth Group Time*** The youth have spoken, we're listening.... 'Most' Sunday's in August 11am-1pm



Youth (7th-12th grade) would like to try to meet right after church on 'most' Sundays. We will trial this new time/format and re-evaluate at the next Youth Council meeting on Sunday Sept 10th (after church, 11am). Students and Parents... Please plan to get involved in August, and then weigh in on Sept 10th, so

we can plan the rest of the fall!

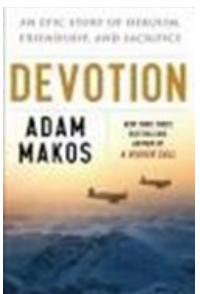
SAVE THE DATE MORE UPCOMMING YOUTH EVENTS

(Activities are tentative and times TBD- keep watching Youth News for details) July 30th- Youth help w/ Children's Ministry Back to School Bash (during Sunday School) Sept 3rd- Youth Group: Lunch and Focus Rock Gym 11:00-3:00 Sept 10th- Youth Council Meeting (lunch and planning) Sept 17th- YOUTH Ignite at PV UMC, Sunday evening, time TBD Sept 24th- Youth Group: TBD Oct. 29th- Youth Group: Pumpkin Carving, afternoon time TBD Jan. 12-15th, 2024 Youth Winter Camp at Mingus



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

September's book is <u>Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship</u>

and Sacrifice by Adam Makos Judy will be leading the review of this fiction book which was published in 2015.

The Book Club will meet September 21st at 11:30 in Room 130.

October's book is <u>The President and the Freedom Fighter: Abra-</u> ham Lincoln, Frederick Douglas and Their Battle to Save America's <u>Soul</u> by Brian Kilmeade.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our next book is <u>Acts: Awaking to God In Everyday Life</u> book by Melissa Spoelstra starts Tuesday August 8th at 9:30a (9:15a to socialize)- 11:15a. 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.

Learn to awaken to God's Spirit today and every day by studying the Book of Acts with Melissa Spoelstra. Whether it's because of distractions, busyness, or a case of the blahs, we can experience a drift toward indifference in our spiritual lives. We have a need for an ongoing spiritual awakening if we want to become more aware of God's presence and activity in our everyday lives.

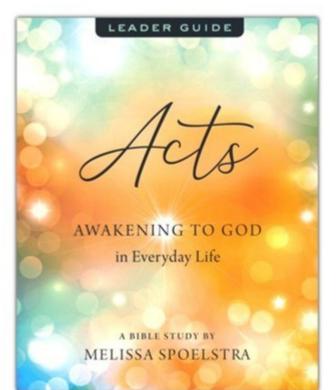
In Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life, a six-week study of the Book of Acts by Melissa Spoelstra, you will journey with the first followers of Jesus and witness the birth and growth of the early church through spiritual awakening to the power of God's Spirit, message, freedom, grace, mission, and direction. From their experiences you will learn postures that will help you attune your own spiritual heart to experience God's presence, hear God's voice, and see God at work all around.

This study offers a fresh encounter with God to prepare you to:

- Face daily battles
- Be able to discern the messages of our culture
- Be ready to share God's love with others always

We start Tuesday 8/8 (9:15a for some social time) 9:30-11:15a class time. No prep for 1st week

Contact Sonja Ruhland at Sonja.ruhland@gmail.com 14



- Church office closed 9.4.2023 in observance of Labor Day
- Grief share meets on Zoom every Saturday from 8:30 to 10 am.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study will continue study <u>Acts Awaking to God in Everyday Life</u>. By Melissa Poelstra on every Tuesday morning at 9:15.
- Chat and Chew meets every Wednesday at
- 12:00 in Room 136 Bring your own lunch and join us for Fellowship
- Christian Women's Fellowship will meet September 7th in room 130 at 9:30 am.
- Pre school Breakfast with Grandparents will be Septpember 6 th and 7th in activity Cwenter.
- Book Club Meets September 21st at 11:30 am in Room 130 September's book is <u>Devotion: An Epic Story of Heroism, Friendship and Sacrifice</u> by Adam Makos
- SAVE THE DATE for our big TRUNK n TREAT in the parking lot of the Church on Tuesday October 31st. Be there or be Square!













Ways to Give



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert offers several ways to contribute to the church. If you look at our website (<u>https://gilbertumc.org/</u>) and scroll to the bottom, you will see a green button that says Giving and if you enter that, you have the option to contribute electronically. This will allow you to set up payments on a schedule.

We also have an option to send envelopes to those request them. These envelopes cost us to send and we are finding that many of them are not being used. In an effort to cut down on these costs, if you are receiving these envelopes but not using them, please let us know so we can stop sending them. Occasionally, our finance secretary looks at our records to stop these envelopes from being mailed if a contribution using these envelopes has not been mailed in the past year. If this happens and you wish to have them mailed again, please notify our office at 480-982-9166, and we will be happy to get them mailed out to you with the next quarter

Call to Support the Community of Lahaina By Rev. Dr. Denyse Barnes, Director of Justice & Compassion EMT

In response to the devastating fires which have ripped through **Hawai`i** in the last few days, a special giving link has been set up at the Conference center. As United Methodists, we want to bring our resources to the table in the most effective way possible; as such, 100% of all you give will go towards helping the people of Hawai`i.

We are committed to supporting the community of **Lahaina** as they navigate the challenges before them. All of the money collected through the links below will go towards helping this community in their time of need.

The first responders in Hawai`i have asked us not to send goods or people at this time as they work out what their specific needs will be over time. Our <u>Disaster Response Task</u> <u>Force</u> has mobilized and is working at assisting as plans develop. We will let you know more as the recovery plan is implemented. Matthew 25:40 – "Then the lord will reply to them, 'I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.'"

Online Giving: Individuals can give to the **Lahaina Relief Fund** at <u>calpacumc.org/donate</u>.

Giving by Check: Gifts for the Lahaina Relief Fund can be made payable to the *California-Pacific Conference* and sent to California-Pacific Conference, Lahaina Relief Fund, PO Box 6006, Pasadena, CA 91102-6006.





Grief Share Support Group

For those grieving the loss of someone close to them. This support group is led by Kay Pealstrom. She can be contacted at: <u>k.pealstrom@gmail.com</u>

Kay is the resource for registration, information on obtaining materials and sharing the zoom information for the session. The support group meets on Saturday mornings from 8am-10am.

Homebound Communion: If you have a friend or family member that can not make it to church on Sundays to worship in person, please let Pastor Adriana or the office know if he/she would like to be added to the Homebound Communion list. The Congregational Care team members extend the communion table. Communion is blessed and served the first Sunday of each month. The CCM team takes the communion to the personal



homes or a hospital/assisted living setting to share the same communion with those who can not make it to church.



Praying Ministry

First Gilbert has a team that supports the prayer needs of our congregation. If you are would like to share a prayer request, you can either email us at prayers@gilbertumc.org or call the church office at 480-892-9166. If you have a request that is only for the pastor, please indicate that need. The prayer team members will be lifting up your concerns and praises in a loving and confidential manner.

Congregational Care Support Groups

For more information about groups and other support available, please contact Pastor Adriana at <u>pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org</u> or 480-892-9166 Contact Pastor Adriana at pastoradriana@gilbertumc.org

September Calendar of Events 2023



October Calendar of Events 2023

Calendars

	I	I	Chat & Chew Wodnesday Room 133	A	I	1
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 _{Commun-} ion Sunday	2	3 Tues- day Morn- ing Bible Study 9:15	4 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	5 Christian Women's Fellowship 9:30	6	7 Grief share Every Saturday 8:00-10:00 on zoom
8	9	10 _{Tuesday} Morning Bible Study 9:15	11Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible	12	13	14 GRIEF
15	16	17 _{Tues} - day morning Bible study 9:15	18 Chat N Chew Noon Wednesday Night Bible study 6:30	19 Book Club 11:00	20	21
22	23	24 _{4uesday} morning Bible study 9:15		26	27	28
29	30	31 Tues Morning Bible 9:15 Trunk N Treat at in parking lot of Church	Chat & Chew Wednesday Noon Room 133			

September Birthdays



Catherine Panella	2
Kimberly Fairley	3
Dennis E Hunter	5
Richard Curran	6
Chris Cantwell	8
Cindie Rempel	12
Eric Butler	14
Paige Cantwell	14
Matt Roberts	14
Laura Boever	15
Maia Chiricuzio	20
Alexandra Houseman	21
Katie Bouchie	23
Jeannie Hirsch	23
Bruce Woolsey	23
Lisa Martin	24
Jake Regnitz	24
Delaine Anthoony	27
Lydia Ramirez	27





September Anniversaries

Date	Sweet Couple	Years
		Married
07	Shayla and David Paap	21
09	Lori and Stuart Weimers	28
12	Judith and Richard Pirce	64
15	Colleen Quinn and Matt Roberts	22



Birthdays / Anniversaries