

Open hearts
Open minds
Open doors

The People of the
United Methodist Church



Faith United Methodist Church
8640 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Remember!

You are dust and to
dust your shall return ...

Genesis 3:19



The *Koinonia* is a monthly publication from Faith United Methodist Church. Its purpose is to provide items of interest and information about events and people related to the ministry of the church locally, district-wide and in the conference.

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Michael German	Media Tech
David Topping	Webmaster
Esther Frank	Newsletter Editor

KOINONIA

Monthly Newsletter from
Faith United Methodist Church
8640 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Office Hours

Tuesday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Phone

(602) 943-3465

FAX

(602) 682-5780

Email

office@umcfaithphx.org
pastor@umcfaithphx.org

Web

faithumcphoenix.org

Members of Faith UMC: Volunteers of Time,
Talent, Prayers, Gifts, Service and Witness.

FEBRUARY 2016



Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

8640 North 19th Avenue Phone: (602) 943-3465
Phoenix, AZ 85021 Fax: (602) 682-5780

February 2016

From the **PASTOR**—

Did you know that 2016 is a Leap Year? I didn't...that is, until I looked at the calendar! Leap years occur almost every 4 years in order to keep our calendar aligned with the Earth's movements. Contrary to popular belief, it takes the Earth 365.2421 days to complete a single orbit around our sun...but it would be silly for us to add a quarter of a day to our calendar each year, since that would totally mess up our days from our nights. So instead once every four years (for the most part) we add an extra day to the month of February, making it 29 days long instead of 28. But you already knew that, didn't you?



Perhaps what you didn't know is that there is an important exception to the rule of adding a day to the calendar every 4 years. Since the number of days it takes for the Earth to orbit the sun is actually slightly less than 365.25, adding an extra day every four years results in 3 extra days being added every 400 years. So in order to make sure we don't get ahead of ourselves (or behind...I'm not quite sure which it would be), only three out of every 4 Century Years are considered Leap Years, and the way they determine which Century Years aren't, they (whoever "they" is) decided that only those Century Years divisible by 400 would have the extra day added in. That means the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 were not Leap Years...but the year 2000 was, because it's evenly divisible by 400. Likewise, the year 2100 will not be a leap year, but by then none of us will be around and we won't really care!

So what will you do with your extra day this year? Will you spend it working? Or playing? Will you take the day off? Or will it just be another day? This year Leap Day falls on a Monday, so I suspect most of you will be going about your usual Monday routines...but what if you could do whatever you wanted on your extra day?

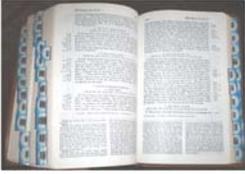
Perhaps a day at the spa sounds like a good way to spend your extra day this year, or maybe you'd like to spend it hanging out with your grandchildren, or great grandchildren, or your significant other. Maybe you'd like to spend a day at the park, or a day at the zoo, or a day reading a good book. Or maybe you're like me and could use the day catching up on all the things that didn't get done the week before. The possibilities are endless...

But let me ask you this: what do you think God would want you to do with your extra day? By the time you read this we will be in the middle of our sermon series called Sabbath Rest, during which we are considering what it means to be at rest with God. Do you think God would want you to use your extra day being in God's presence and meditating on God's word?

Since the Lenten Season starts early this year – February 10 is Ash Wednesday – and since Lent is a time of reflection for us as Christians, then I think this year's Leap Day is the perfect opportunity for us to be at rest with our Savior. So I hope you'll spend your extra day immersed in the presence of the divine. But if you decide to do something else – that spa day, perhaps – whatever you do, I pray it will be a good day.

God Bless,
Pastor Jody

Thinking theologically with Pastor Jody:



Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. (Mark 1:35b)

When I was a child I used to love going into my parent's living room – the forbidden room – and crawling up into a big, green, overstuffed chair and reading until I fell asleep. Sometimes, when it was cold outside, my mom would light the gas log in the fireplace and it felt like I was in my own little corner, kind of like Cinderella (from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical edition). The time I spent in the big, overstuffed chair was my time...and the living room was my own deserted place where I could be alone, just me and my book, or whatever I happened to be reading at the time.

Today I have a big, brown, overstuffed chair in the corner behind my desk in my office at the church. I put it there because **(a)** I didn't have room for it in our rental house here in Phoenix, and **(b)** I thought I would use it as a place to do daily devotions and meditate on scripture. But, unfortunately, that hasn't come to pass since the time I spend at the church is busy, busy, busy. Perhaps I need to take a lesson from Jesus and go to a deserted place where I can be alone in prayer...

Let's face it: we're all busy people. Even those of us who are retired are busy doing all the things we didn't get to do when we were working or raising our kids. The hours fly by and the days seem to get shorter and before we know it, the week is over and our "To Do" list is still a whole lot longer than it should be. So trying to find time to be alone with God is next to impossible...which means we need to make time to be alone in prayer.

And I can't think of a better time to get in the habit of making time with God than the season of Lent, which begins February 10. Lent is a time of meditation and reflection, a time when we consider who we are and who we would like to be. It's a time when we can consider God's desire for our lives and spend time listening to God, and it's a time for us to

NEW WORSHIP TIMES DURING LENT

During the season of Lent, starting Sunday, February 14th we will move our worship service time to 10:00 a.m. on a trial basis. Several members have expressed an interest in moving our Sunday morning worship service from 9:30 a.m. to a later time, so we're going to try it out to see how it works for everyone.

On Easter Sunday we will still also hold a Sunrise Service at or around sunrise.

give up our old habits in favor of developing some new ones.

Mark 1:35 tells us that Jesus rose and went to a quiet place where he could be alone and pray. If we look at the verses that precede this verse, we discover that Jesus had spent the day teaching in the synagogue and casting out a demon. Then he went to the home of Simon and Andrew and healed Simon's mother-in-law, who was sick with a fever. Then, at sunset, the whole town gathered at the house and he healed many who were sick and possessed by demons. No wonder he needed some time alone!

I think we all could learn a lesson from Jesus. Even on his busiest day, he made time to be with God. So I encourage you to make time to go to that deserted place – even if that deserted place is in the corner of your living room – and spend time in prayer and meditation so God has a chance to speak with you.

During this season of Lent, I am making a covenant with God to spend at least 30 minutes each day in prayer and meditation. And I'll be using a daily devotional guide called *The Sanctuary for Lent*, which will be available at the church. Will you join me in this covenant to spend more time with God? Perhaps you don't have 30 minutes...what about 15, or even 10? I know God will appreciate whatever time you can give. So what do you say...will you join me in this covenant? I hope so, because I think it's what God wants us all to do.

God bless,
Pastor Jody

Ash Wednesday and a Lenten Covenant

What Is Ash Wednesday?

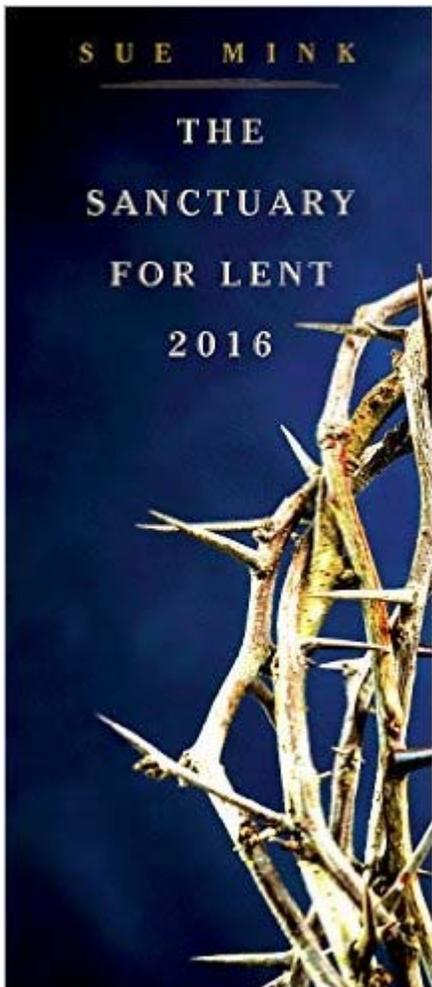
On February 10th at 7pm, we will hold our annual Ash Wednesday worship service at Faith United Methodist Church. For Christians, this is an important day because it marks the first day of the season of Lent, which begins 40 days before Easter (Sundays are not included in the count.)

Lent is the time when we prepare for the joy of the Resurrection of Christ on Easter by engaging in acts of repentance and spiritual discipline. Some engage in a time of fasting, while others intentionally "give up" something they like or enjoy as a way of acknowledging Christ's sacrifice for us.

On Ash Wednesday, we will receive the ashes of repentance on our foreheads or on the backs of our hands as a sign of our mortality and repentance of our sin. It is a way of recognizing we are not perfect, but are willing to make amends and turn our lives around.

Although the Bible doesn't mention Ash Wednesday or the custom of observing the season of Lent, the practice of repentance and mourning in ashes is found in 2 Samuel 13:19; Esther 4:1; Job 2:8; Daniel 9:3; and Matthew 11:21.

This year, on Ash Wednesday (or the Sunday before for those who are not able to attend the service on February 10th), we will provide you with a Daily Lenten Devotional Guide called *The Sanctuary for Lent*. We hope you will use this guide as part of a covenant with Pastor Jody to spend time with God each day during Lent. For more information on this covenant, see the article below. We hope you will join us on Ash Wednesday as we begin our journey through the Lenten Season.



Will You Covenant With Me?

This year during the season of Lent, rather than giving something up, I'm making a covenant with God to spend time with God each day engaging in prayer and meditation. My hope is to not only be more attentive to God, but to also be more attentive to my own spiritual life. I'll confess: sometimes I let the busyness of daily life get the best of me, and I don't spend enough time listening to God and God's desire for my life. So during this Lenten Season I intend to change that behavior. I intend to make time every day to be in prayer and meditation, and to listen for God's voice and God's direction for my life.

Will you join me in this covenant? Will you also make a commitment to spend time with God every day during this season of Lent? I plan to spend at least 30 minutes each day during the season of Lent in prayer and meditation, and if you'll join me in this covenant, send me an email at jody.topping@gmail.com or call me at 480-766-9272 and let me know you plan to join the covenant, because I want you to hold me accountable to this covenant, and I'd like to do the same for you. I'll also be using the daily devotional guide called *The Sanctuary for Lent*, which will be available for distribution by February 7th for those who would like to use it for their Lenten devotions.

I hope you will join me in this covenant, and pray that this year the season of Lent will be a deeply spiritual experience for all of us.

God Bless,
Pastor Jody

2016 Weekday Lenten Study

This year Pastor Jody will offer a unique Lenten Study that will parallel the sermon series called *The Last Week*. The study is the one she wrote as part of her application for full ordination and follows Jesus through the last week of his life from the Sunday we know as Palm Sunday when he rode into Jerusalem to shouts of "Hosanna," through the events of each day until his Resurrection on Easter. As we explore the events of each day during his last week as told in the Gospel of Matthew, we will learn more about why he did what he did, and why he was ultimately killed.

The study will be offered on Wednesday mornings at 10am and on Thursday evenings at 7pm if enough people are interested in an evening group. Because of scheduling, the first session of the study will be during the week of Ash Wednesday, but thereafter the study group will meet weekly concluding the week after Easter.

February 10/11* – The Last Week – Palm Sunday: From Hosanna to Rejected

On the Sunday before the Passover, Jesus rode triumphantly into Jerusalem as if he were a king. But why did he ride into the city on a donkey? And why did the people shout "Hosanna" and wave palms? And how is it that he went from receiving cheers on Sunday to jeers by Thursday? In this week's study we will consider all of these questions both historically as well as theologically on this first day of the last week.

February 24/25*: The Last Week – Monday: Cleansing the Temple

Through his actions in the Temple, Jesus not only seals his own fate, but makes a bold statement about the nature of the kingdom of God. The Temple, which had been destroyed by the time Matthew wrote his gospel, was to be a house of prayer instead of a place of business, and he condemns those in positions of power for what they had done to the house of God. But Jesus goes on to have mercy on those in and around the Temple who, by no fault of their own, were dependent upon the kindness of others. He afflicts the comfortable and comforts the afflicted. What do these actions say about how we are meant to treat others in our midst?

March 2/3*: The Last Week – Tuesday: Hypocrites and Judgment

As followers of Christ, we are expected to behave in certain ways. In today's readings from Matthew 23 and 25, we gain a fuller understanding of what those behaviors are. While Jesus was teaching in the Temple precinct, he was approached by various religious authorities who tried to test him and invalidate his authority. But he turned the tables on them and instead rebuked them for the ways they were using their positions to benefit

themselves. As we study this event along with the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats in Chapter 25, we will more fully understand how Jesus intends for us to live out our faith in the Kingdom of God. We will ask ourselves what things we can do differently, and will explore how we as Christians can live up to the standard Jesus set.

March 9/10*: The Last Week – Wednesday: A Leper, A Woman, and A Traitor

There are several theological themes in today's reading from Matthew 26. We learn from Jesus' willingness to dine at the home of a leper that we are to be in relationship with all people, not just those with whom we are comfortable. We also discover that sometimes God wants us to use our resources – especially our financial resources – for things we might not consider an appropriate use for those resources. And we are further reminded that betrayal is an ugly trait that causes harm to those around us, sometimes those whom we love. And finally, throughout the entire passage, we are reminded that God is ultimately in control, and if we think we are, then we're wrong.

March 16/17*: The Last Week – Thursday: Supper With Friends

When we compare Matthew's version of the passages we are studying today with Mark's version of the same story, we are struck by the similarities between the two. Obviously Matthew didn't feel the need to make too many changes to Mark, nor did he feel the need to embellish. From this part of the story, we are reminded not only of Jesus' divinity as he prepared to sacrifice himself, but also his humanity as he openly showed his fear and grief at being so close to

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

the end of his life. There is much for us to learn about how we are called to forgive those who have wronged us, how we are called to follow God's will for our lives, and how we are called to always go to God in prayer, especially when we are fearful and sad. None of these things are easy for us to do as humans that have been given the gift of free will. But God reminds us through this story that just as Jesus transformed the Seder meal, God transforms us.

March 23/24:** **The Last Week – Friday: Death of a Savior**

During today's lesson we will not only explore what the biblical text tells us, but also some things you may not know about the Roman treatment of criminals and the true nature of crucifixion based on historical, archeological, and medical studies. We will learn how Jesus' crucifixion was a theological statement by Matthew that the end of the old Realm was upon them and the advent of the new Realm – God's Realm – was near. We will

also consider how this information can change the way we approach Easter Sunday, and how this study as a whole impacts our understanding of who Jesus was and is as our Savior in our present and troubled world.

March 30/31*: **The Last Week – Easter Sunday: The Empty Tomb**

This last session of the study emphasizes Jesus' Resurrection as told in Matthew's gospel as the necessary act toward the Great Commission. Jesus defeats the sting of death, and lives to commission his own disciples, instructing them to go out into the world and make disciples of all nations. No longer is a life of faith in the God of Abraham restricted to Jews; it is open to all, including the Gentiles. This is of course the important theological message for us living in a 21st Century world that is full of strife and conflict. When we, as believers in Christ, spread his love through the entire world, the ultimate result will be God's Realm here on earth.

*The Thursday evening study dates will only take place if enough people are interested in having an evening class.

**Because March 24 is also Maundy Thursday, the Thursday evening group will meet at 8pm after the service.

FAMILY PROMISE IN JANUARY
REWARDING FOR ALL

In January, Faith experienced another successful week of hosting Family Promise. Forty different volunteers donated 310 hours of their time to host 5 very appreciative families at our church. And there were many more of you who donated money and prayed for this ministry. Many thanks to all of you.

Faith is one of 31 congregations across the valley who partner with Greater Phoenix Family Promise. (We have participated as a member of this organization since its inception in 1999.) Greater Phoenix Family Promise is proud that in the past three years, it has more than tripled the number of families served. In 2015 it rescued a record 105 families and 44 pets. Faith has played an important part in this ministry. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



NEW TO FAITH UMC

On January 24th George and Connie Hegeman were received into Faith's congregation, coming from Sierra Vista UMC.



WELCOME!

“We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ's holy church, and bid you welcome to

this congregation of the United Methodist Church.”

The Baptismal Covenant III

Lenten Sermons

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 10 this year. Yes, it's early...but that just means that Easter will be early...Hallelujah!! This year during Lent we will journey with Jesus through the last week of his life, beginning with Palm Sunday and ending on Easter Sunday. This means we will be celebrating Palm Sunday at the beginning of Lent instead of toward the end, but it also means we will appreciate Easter Sunday so much more because we'll understand more fully the events that occurred between Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his crucifixion, death, and Resurrection one week later. We hope you will join us as we experience Lent in a whole new way through our sermon series called The Last Week.

The Last Week

- February 10Journey to Jerusalem (*Ash Wednesday - worship at 7:00 pm*)
February 14Palm Sunday: From Hosanna to Rejected
February 21Monday: Cleansing the Temple
February 28Tuesday: Hypocrites and Judgment
March 6Wednesday: a Leper, a Woman, and a Traitor
March 13Thursday: Supper with Friends
March 20Friday: Death of a Savior
March 24*Maundy Thursday - worship at 7:00 pm*
March 25*Good Friday - worship at 7:00 pm*
March 27Easter Sunday: the Empty Tomb

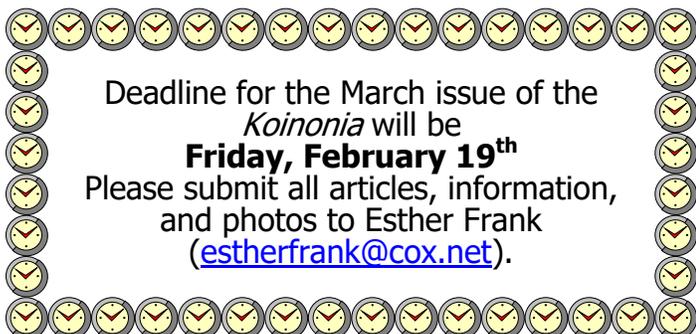
KINGDOM DREAMS, VIOLENT REALITIES: CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

During the month of January, Pastor Jody delivered three sermons based on the bible study by Bill Mefford, Director of Civil and Human Rights at the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church. These sermons, as well as the study content which was handed out during each of the worship services, focused on the issue of gun violence in our world, including some of the causes of gun violence and what we as people of faith might do to help reduce the incidence of such violence in our world. We considered this issue from a theological perspective rather than a political one, and were reminded throughout the series that God's desire for us as God's people is to live in a world where violence does not exist, where weapons are transformed into tools that provide for God's people, and where all live in harmony with each other.

Those who were in worship on January 24 were also invited to be in dialogue with our Bishop on possible next steps we as United Methodists might take to reduce gun violence in our world. This meeting with the Bishop occurred on January 25 and offered those who participated greater insight into this issue.

As a follow-up to this series, we would like to keep the conversation going by offering opportunities for us to be in dialogue with each other. As such, if you are interested in participating in further discussion about God's Kingdom Dreams in the midst of Violent Realities, please contact Pastor Jody by email at jody.topping@gmail.com or by phone at 480-766-9272. If enough people express interest in continuing the conversation, we will work on identifying possible days and times during which these conversations can and will take place.

God desires God's people to live peaceful and productive lives. Let's do what we can as people of faith to promote common sense solutions that will alleviate the violence so prevalent in our world.





Sidewalk Ministry Needs YOU!

In November 2014, Sidewalk Sunday School was added to the list of ministries supported by the good people at Faith UMC. This ministry brings the love of Christ to neighborhood children and their families who might not otherwise attend worship at Faith or any other church. Some of the children come from low income families that need to feel God's love and grace, and through this ministry we help them discover how wonderful a relationship with God can be.

The Sidewalk Worship Service is just that: a worship service that is geared toward young children and includes music, games, Bible stories, and lessons. Yes, the service is loud and rambunctious, but it's also a lot of fun! The service itself runs about 45 minutes and is followed by a simple lunch, which for some of the children may be their only meal that day. Not only does God feed their souls, but we feed their bodies to help them grow both physically and spiritually.

In order for this ministry to be successful, we need a group of dedicated volunteers who are willing to give one or more Saturday mornings each month to sharing the love of Christ with these children and their families, which is what we are called to do as people of faith. The more willing volunteers we have, the less often they will need to work, which is why we are calling upon YOU: can you help? What can you do to help? Well, here is a list of the volunteer positions we need:

Truck Team: members of this team arrive at about 9:30 am to help set up the truck and get the sound system and props ready for the service. At the end of the service, this team puts everything away. Often members of this team will serve during the service as Shepherds, or might help prepare and serve the meal afterward. People on this team need to be able to do some moderate to heavy lifting. It's not hard work...just takes a little muscle.

Shepherd Team: members of this team arrive at 9:45am and help with any remaining set-up to be done. They take attendance and play with the children before the Sidewalk service begins. During the service they sit with the children either on the rugs or in chairs, and help by passing the offering baskets and writing

down the children's prayers. They might also participate in skits or other parts of the lesson. They escort children to the restroom if needed, and redirect those who are not paying attention during the service. Being a shepherd is probably the easiest job, because you get to play with the kids and participate in the service, but it's also very important because you help keep the kids focused.



Lunch Team: members of this team also arrive at about 9:45 am and begin to prepare whatever is being served for lunch, which is usually hot dogs, hamburgers, or pizza. When the worship service is over, they serve lunch to the children and clean up after lunch is over. The church will buy the food ahead of time so there is no financial outlay required of lunch team members, and the menu is pre-determined so all you have to do is prepare, serve, and clean up.

Prayer Team: This is perhaps the most important team of all, and includes everyone at Faith UMC. This team prays for the children and those mentioned by the children during the worship service, as well as the ministry itself.

Unfortunately, because of a reduction in volunteers, we've had to suspend our Sidewalk Ministry, but YOU can help bring it back by joining one or more of these teams! The more volunteers we have, the less frequently they will need to serve, so won't you consider being a vital part of this ministry? Even if you can help just once a month, your presence is needed. The children need you because you share God's love with them through Sidewalk.

So if you are willing and able to help – even if it's just one Saturday a month – please call the church office and talk to Pastor Jody. Together we can help make young disciples of Jesus Christ by participating in this vital ministry that brings the love of Christ to the otherwise unchurched. Help us grow a new generation of young disciples by joining one or more of the Sidewalk Ministry teams today!

*Your Neighborhood
Outreach Committee*

NOMADS at Faith

We are so excited to have another group of NOMADS visiting our church campus and doing some much-needed work in order to upgrade and secure our facilities. This year we will have 4 couples who will be with us for 3 weeks beginning

February 1st.
Some of the tasks your Trustees have identified for them to do include exterior painting, interior painting, and



tearing out and replacing the entrances to the classrooms in our west education building. We also have a lot of landscape work that we'd like them to complete as well.

In addition, Crossroads UMC is hosting another group of NOMADS for another 3 weeks beginning February 22. While this group is primarily going to be working at the other church, they will be parking their RVs in our back lot, and will also be available to do work for us. Our hope is that they will be able to continue the work that the first group of NOMADS is unable to complete. Needless to say, the next 6 weeks are going to be very busy around Faith United Methodist Church!

In order to facilitate the NOMADS work, there are several things that we are responsible for providing. First, we have to provide a place for them to park their RVs, including access to water, electricity, and sewage disposal. With the help of the NOMADS organization we are able to provide these things for them. But in addition to that, we are also responsible for providing them a noon meal on the days they are working for us. Carol Getting is organizing these meals, but she needs help with preparing, serving and cleaning up. If you are able to help, please contact Carol at 602-973-0865. She will then let you know when she needs your help.

We also know that the first group of NOMADS will be joining us for worship on Sunday mornings, so let's welcome them with open arms!! And don't forget to thank them for the many tasks they are doing for us. We thank God for groups like the NOMADS and look forward to having them as our guests.



A NEW SEASON!

It's February, which means it is almost spring in Phoenix! This means two things:

- 1) It is time to prepare and plant our Community Garden for the Spring/Summer growing season. On Tuesday, Feb 16th at 1:00pm we will have a garden work-party. You are invited to join us for a couple of hours of playing in the dirt and getting soil under your finger nails.
- 2) It is time to collect fees and donations to cover the expense of water and upkeep for the six months of spring and summer. You may:

- ♦ Rent a garden bed for yourself so that you can plant and enjoy your own fresh vegetables. (All gardeners will get hands-on help from a certified Master Gardener, Paula Wolf, who happens to be a member of our church here at Faith.), or
- ♦ Donate the cost of a bed, so that the garden committee can raise vegetables to take to the Desert Mission Food Bank. (On average, we have been donating 30 - 35 lbs of produce a week to the food bank.)

You can rent or support a whole bed (8'x4') for \$60 or a half bed (4'x4') for \$30. Checks should be made out to Faith UMC and specified for "Community Garden" and can be given to any of the garden committee (Paula Wolf, Gary and Jane Kriege or John Goad) or can be placed in the offering on a Sunday morning.

Thank you for your support!

LURA TURNER HOMES PRESENTS ENGLISH HIGH TEA

Lura Turner Homes for Developmentally Disabled Adults will be holding its 20th annual Joyce Ridge Memorial English High Tea on March 5th at St. Stephen Byzantine Catholic Church Social Hall. Tickets are by reservation only with various sponsorship options available.



For details, please call (602) 943-4789.

FINANCIAL GIVING MADE SIMPLE!

(I'm beginning this article with a personal testimony...so I hope you'll bear with me as I offer my own experience with e-giving.)

Electronic giving...for some it's a scary proposition, but for others, it's a process we depend on each day. I remember the first time I tried setting up an account to pay one of my bills electronically from my checking account. I was concerned that somehow my accounts might be compromised. But I learned very quickly that the systems used for electronic payments are very secure, so I don't have to worry about that anymore. Most of our bills are paid electronically, and even our monthly pledge to Faith UMC is paid online using the system the church now has in place. And while there still is some risk, I've discovered that when my account is compromised, the bank is very quick to make things right. Furthermore, we've never had a problem with our monthly gifts to the church being compromised in any way. So as one who does a lot of electronic payments, I can't stress enough how safe and easy it really is.

With that in mind, I want to encourage all of you to consider e-giving for your weekly or monthly financial gifts. It's easy, it's safe, and it's convenient, because all you have to do is set it and forget it! And if you want to make a change to the amount of your e-gifts, you can do that too very quickly and easily. All you need is an e-mail account and you're ready to get started! You can either have your financial gifts directly deposited from your checking or savings account into the church's account, or you can apply your gifts to a credit or debit card...and both can be done quickly and easily. You tell us when you would like your gifts given, whether it's once a week, once a month, or some other frequency that is to your liking. So why should you consider e-giving? Here are a few reasons that come to mind:

- You don't have to remember to bring cash, your checkbook, or giving envelopes with you to church on Sunday. One less thing to remember on Sunday mornings when you're in a hurry to get to church on time!
- Your giving is more regular, which helps the church pay its regular monthly bills. And if you are on vacation, your gifts will still be made on your behalf, resulting in a more consistent revenue stream that the church depends on each month.
- Giving electronically saves our Financial Secretary from having to record your gifts by hand, because our e-giving system is linked to your giving record. It also eliminates the possibility of error, so your giving record is more accurate.
- If you give using a credit card which gives you points, you actually come out ahead by applying your financial gifts to your credit card account.



IN THE MAILBOX

Thank you for the many acts of loving support shown to me during Gordon's illness and following his recent death. Special thanks to Pastor Jody who was there for us the minute we asked and brought such comfort. I will always be grateful to have been part of such a caring church family. The entire Babbitt family is also very appreciative of your kindness. I don't have words to adequately express how much you have all helped me during this time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Babbitt

So how can you set up your e-giving account? Simply contact Pastor Jody in the church office for assistance. She will send you an online invitation to access your record in our membership database so you can set up your online giving account at your convenience.

God bless,

Pastor Jody

NEW BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

WOMEN'S 4TH SUNDAY STUDY BEGINS

A new bible study opportunity for all Faith UMC women begins this year. It is meeting after Coffee Chat time on the fourth Sunday of each month. They will be using *The Upper Room* for the study. Please consider joining the group! For more information, please talk with Shane Taber (sctaber56@gmail.com, 623-910-1619) or Eunice Moses.

FAITH'S PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Our 2016 Pictorial Directory is very close to being done! Thank you to those who participated in the photo shoots that occurred during October and November. The pictures turned out great!! And we hope those of you who wanted to order pictures were able to do so without any trouble. If you weren't able to order photos and would like to, please let Pastor Jody know and we'll figure out what we need to do.



If you didn't get your photos done and would like us to set up another photo shoot, please contact the church office so we can add you to the list. We will be contacting those folks for whom we don't have a photo for the directory to see if they want our photographer to take their picture or would rather provide us with a digital photo themselves. Either way, we'd like to get as many people's photos in the directory as possible, so if you didn't take part in the Fall Photo Shoot, please contact us so we can make the appropriate arrangements.



You can also help us get the directory out more quickly by making sure that the office has your correct address, telephone number, email address, birthday and anniversary dates. If you think we might not have the right information, please call the office as soon as possible. We'd like to get the directory printed as soon as possible, so we need that information quickly.

Some mock-up sheets will be available in the coming weeks for everyone to double check the information we have as well as verify that the photo we chose is the one you'd like us to include in the directory. Watch for those on Sunday mornings during Coffee Chat following worship.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in this, hopefully our best ever photo directory!!

FAITH LUNCH BUNCH



Once a month we meet at 11:30am to enjoy lunch. In January the spot was "Red Lobster" near Metro Center where 15 ladies met for lunch and fellowship. All are welcome to join in the fun.

The February spot is to be Los Compadres Mexican restaurant, 2350 W. Northern. We will gather at 11:30 on February 18th for food and fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join in with the group at that time.



MISSION STATEMENT **Faith United Methodist Church**

Faith United Methodist Church is an inclusive* Christian congregation dedicated to the care of its constituents in order to serve the local community; and in co-operation with other faith-based organizations, to reach out to all persons* who seek personal acceptance, require sustaining assistance, or yearn for a meaningful life purpose beyond self.

*Regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, race, or sexual orientation.

PASSINGS

Our friend Peter Ryder passed away in his sleep in Milford Haven on January 23 at home in Wales. He was 71. He leaves his wife Davina, daughters Ruth and Rachel, and two sons Richard and Christopher.

Peter and Davina were winter visitors and attended Faith Church for several years, but had not returned last year as he battled cancer.

If you would like to send a card to the family, please contact Janet Darby as soon as possible. She will collect the cards and send them together the first week of March.



Faith UMC Website:
faithumcphoenix.org
Videos of Sunday sermons
faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/

Faith UMC Facebook Page:
facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix
Faith UMC Facebook Group:
facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup

Please note change in Sunday times beginning February 14th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February 2016	1 Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	2 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	3 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	4	5	6 12:30 pm Roadrunners - K 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
	7 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 6:00 pm UMYF (grade 4-6) *1	8 Office Closed	9 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:30 pm Church Council - Rm 4	10 Ash Wednesday 10:00 am Lenten Study - Rm 1-2 7:00 pm Worship-Sanctuary 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	11	12
14 8:30 am Handbells -Sanctuary 9:00 am Choir-Sanctuary 10:00 am Worship-Sanctuary 11:15 am Valentine Potluck 11:30 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 6:00 pm UMYF (grade 7-12) *1	15 Office Closed	16 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	17 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	18 11:30 am Lunch Bunch - Los Compadres	19 6:00 pm Movie Night- S	20 8:00 am UMM Breakfast-K 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
21 9:00 am Choir-Sanctuary 10:00 am Worship-Sanctuary 11:15 am Coffee Chat - K 11:30 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan 6:00 pm UMYF (grade 7-12) *1	22 Office Closed <i>Presidents Day</i>	23 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 7:00 pm Neighborhood Outreach - Rm 4	24 10:00 am Lenten Study - Rm 1-2 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	25	26	27 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
28 9:00 am Choir-Sanctuary 10:00 am Worship-Sanctuary 11:15 am Coffee Chat - K 11:30 am Women's Bible Study 11:30 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship 4:00 pm UMYF (grade 6-12) *2	29 Office Closed	Birthdays: 02/01 Synthia Rajendran 02/04 Eunice Moses 02/08 Ollie Ball 02/17 Shane Taber 02/18 Amy Price 02/23 Mary Lou Shields 02/23 Bette Jo Hays 02/23 Terry Goekler 02/24 Gene Outcalt 02/28 Susan Blackstone				Anniversaries: 02/09 Kay & Richard Holstad 02/14 Monica & James Halfhill 02/16 Cheri & Joe Bittinger

*1 UMYF meets at Trinity; *2 UMYF combined meets at Faith UMC