

*Open hearts*

*Open minds*

*Open doors*

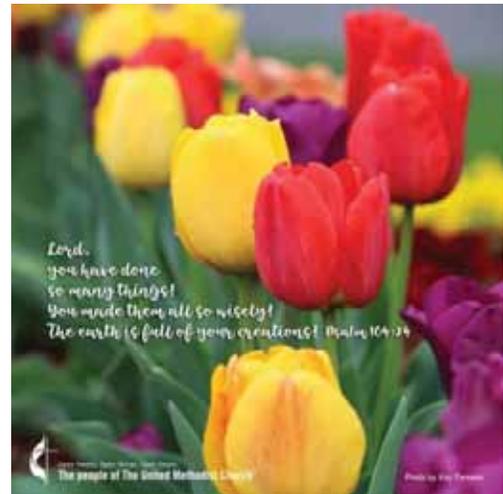


The People of the  
United Methodist Church

How many are your works, Lord!  
In wisdom you made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

Psalm 104:24 (NIV)

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



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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## **KOINONIA**

Monthly Newsletter from  
Faith United Methodist Church

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Talent, Prayers, Gifts, Service and Witness.*



# Koinonia

## *Faith United Methodist Church*

8640 North 19th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Phone: (602) 943-3465

### *From the* **PASTOR**—

May 2017

#### ***Happy Easter!!***

On April 16, we celebrated Easter at Faith United Methodist Church! It was a beautiful weekend, filled with lovely Easter lilies, terrific music, two very different worship services (one at 6:30am in the Patio Garden and the other at 9:30am in our beautifully decorated sanctuary), and (I hope!) meaningful messages that wrapped up our Lenten theme, proclaiming that *Christ Is For Us!* On the day before Easter, even though it was a little premature, our Sidewalk Sunday School ministry celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with a special Sidewalk Worship Service that included an Easter Egg Roll and (of course!) distribution of beautiful Easter Baskets that were provided to our Sidewalk kids by the wonderful ladies from Shepherd of the Hills UMW in Sun City West. Yes, our Easter celebration was definitely one for the memory books!

But just because Easter Sunday has passed doesn't mean the Easter Season is over. We are Resurrection people...and as such, we are called to celebrate the Risen Christ until the Day of Pentecost, when we will celebrate the birth of the Early Church, when the Holy Spirit came upon the believers and inspired them to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.



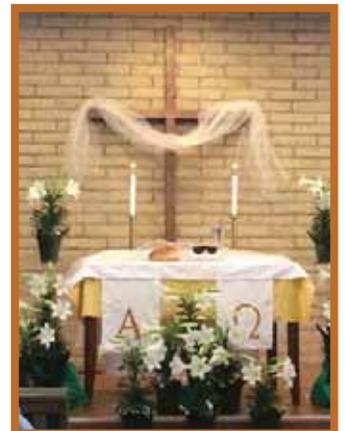
What you may not know about the Easter Season, however, is that it was originally designed to be a time of faith formation. Consider the following from our United Methodist website, [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org):

*In the early church, Lent was a season for new converts to learn about the faith and prepare for baptism on Easter Sunday. The initial purpose of the 50-day Easter season was to continue the faith formation of new Christians. Today, this extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptisms and how through this sacrament we are, according to the liturgy, "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people," we also celebrate and ponder the birth of the Church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.*

So, from now until Pentecost, which this year is on the first Sunday in June, we will continue to be Easter people! We will continue celebrating the Resurrection of Christ and the new life his rising brings to us as his followers! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!! Hallelujah!!!

God bless,

*Pastor Jody*



## Thinking Theologically with Pastor Jody

During this Easter Season, we are exploring a series of sermons called "Keep the Faith," during which we are considering some of the issues we are facing in our world today from a biblical perspective rather than a political one. Although many of the issues included in this series are the same issues we are reading about in our newspapers and hearing about on our TV news programs, the difference here is that we're looking at them from God's perspective, not our human one. Since I know some of you may not be able to hear the sermons "live," I wanted to provide for you a brief description of each sermon, and invite you to view the sermon videos, which are usually posted within a few days after the sermons are delivered on Sunday mornings.

This series is an important one for us as followers of Christ, because while the topics are political in nature, they also have implications for us as faithful Christians. And while you and I may belong to particular political parties, I would hope we would consider ourselves members of God's faithful community



first, before we consider ourselves members of any political party. Our allegiance is to God... and what's more, God's allegiance is to us. This is evidenced by the scriptural basis for the entire series: Isaiah 41:10, which says "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strength-

*Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.*

- Isaiah 41:10 (NLT)

en you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."

# KEEP THE FAITH

We are God's people first, and if we're going to Keep the Faith in this broken world, we need to pledge our allegiance to God *before* we pledge our allegiance to a political party. I hope this sermon series will be valuable to you, not only as people of faith but also as citizens of the world. I also hope you will invite your friends to join us as we consider

how we can Keep the Faith, even in a troubled and broken world.

### **4/23/17 – Keeping the Faith in a Broken World**

The intent of this series is to help us think about how the scriptures and our faith might connect to controversial issues, and to invite us to approach these issues in a such a way that we not only listen to and try to understand the views of others, but more importantly, listen to how God, through Jesus Christ, speaks to us about the issues that affect our lives.

### **4/30/17 – The Bible and Immigration**

Immigration is one of those issues that is difficult for us, especially in this country. We are a nation of immigrants, and yet, we struggle with an immigration system that is broken, perhaps beyond repair. Our goal in this sermon is to help us face this issue with compassion now so we will not be ashamed of our actions decades from now. We will look at identifying ways we can approach immigration that is consistent with our Biblical mandate to welcome the stranger and the immigrant.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## ***UPCOMING SERMONS***

### **5/7/17 – A Christian Response to Extremism**

There are many different faith traditions in the world, and most, if not all, have factions that are extreme. When we think of religious extremism, we often think of the Muslim faith, but the truth is, Islam is not the only faith tradition that has its extremist side. So how do we deal with extremism? One way is to consider Paul's challenge in Romans 12: We should bless those who persecute us and try to live in harmony with one another. That means treating others, regardless of their faith, with respect, compassion and love. In this sermon, we will look for ways to have meaningful relationships with others, which might mean standing with them if and when they are harassed. In doing so we will live out those famous words of Dr. King, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. And hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

### **5/14/17 – Christianity and Healthcare**

When Jesus was asked to name the most important commandment, and he said that we are to love the Lord with all our heart, mind and strength, and love our neighbor as ourselves. Early Christians cared for the sick. When Christianity became the official religion in about 325 CE, the bishops of the church began building hospitals so the destitute and dying could have access to compassionate medical care. In 18th Century London, John Wesley and the early Methodists opened a clinic to care for those who could not afford medical care. In America, it was churches that opened most of the hospitals built before 1940, most of which were designed to care for the poor who otherwise could not afford medical care. Our faith compels us to care for the needs of the vulnerable. We are obligated by scripture to work toward health

care solutions that help everyone have access to some kind of health care coverage.

### **5/21/17 – Christianity and Guns**

Guns are lethal weapons. We require people pass a driver's exam and get a license in order to drive a car on the open road. But in most states one can buy a gun without any training in how to safely store it or use it. Most people also agree that keeping guns out of the hands of the wrong people is vitally important. But how do we do that in light of the current interpretation of the 2nd Amendment to our American Constitution? As people of faith, we look to the Scriptures for guidance, but there were no guns when the scriptures were written. Their weapons were swords, knives, spears, javelins, slingshots and rocks. These weapons were not forbidden by the prophets, because they were needed for self-defense, but they envisioned a world where the weapons used to defeat others could instead become a tool of love.

### **5/28/17 – Disagreeing in Love**

We've come full circle in this series. When we started we asked the question "how do we keep our faith in a troubled world? How do we remain faithful when we can't even agree on what our values and beliefs as people of faith should be? One thing is clear: we need build bridges rather than walls in our country and our world today. We need to stop the angry and polarizing rhetoric about those who believe differently than we do, especially those on the other side of whatever issue we're discussing. We need to let no evil talk come out of our mouths, but only what is useful for building others up. Our biblical mandate is clear: we are to do unto others as we would have them do unto us. We are to not to be overcome by evil, but to overcome evil with good, and remember that the weapon of a Christian, more powerful than any pistol, is the weapon of love.

God Bless, *Pastor Jody*

## ***Happy Easter from our Sidewalk Ministry!!***

On April 15th, our Sidewalk Sunday School Ministry celebrated Easter and the Resurrection of Christ with fun, games, and Easter Baskets! We were blessed to have received 27 beautiful Easter Baskets from our new friends who are members of the United Methodist Women's organization at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church in Sun City West. Several wonderful ladies from *Shepherd* came to Faith UMC in early April bearing baskets, ribbon, candy and toys, and by the time they were done (with a little help from several of our Faith UMC ladies), we had a whole bunch of beautiful baskets fit for our Easter celebration! And because we had so many baskets, we were able to share them with our Family Promise families who came to stay at our church for a week starting the evening of Easter Sunday. So "thank you" to the ladies from Shepherd of the Hills UMW, for partnering with us to help our Sidewalk Sunday School children and our Family Promise families experience a blessed Easter weekend.



### ***Sidewalk Sunday School Summer Plans***

Soon our Sidewalk Sunday School season will be over. ☺ When the weather gets too warm here in Phoenix, it becomes unreasonable for us to continue holding SSS outdoors in the parking lot. So, our choices are to either take a break during the summer or we can continue meeting inside the church! We are hoping to do the latter, since we know that when we stop meeting for the summer, it's that much harder for us to get the ball rolling when we resume in the fall when the temperatures outside cool down.

Our summer plan is to meet for several weeks at a time, with breaks in between, so we can keep in touch with our Sidewalk Sunday School families and still enjoy some vacation time when many of us are traveling anyway. We will likely structure our summer Sidewalk Ministry much like Vacation Bible School, with fun craft activities and indoor games.

As with any ministry, for SSS to be a successful endeavor, volunteers are needed. So, if you enjoy having a good time, we encourage you to become a Sidewalk Sunday School Volunteer, especially during the summer months when our cadre of volunteers will be limited. If you can help out this summer with SSS, please contact Pastor Jody or Carol Getting... and we'll get you signed up!!

## Changes are Coming to Richard E. Miller School

Our neighbors to the west at Richard E. Miller Elementary School will be experiencing a facelift starting at the end of May. The Washington Elementary School District is making plans to expand and reconfigure the school grounds, including reconfiguring their parking area so they will no longer be leasing property from Faith United Methodist Church.

What this means for us is that during the week and on the weekends, you will find additional vehicles, equipment, and building materials on the west end of our property as

well as in our parking lot. The contractors asked (very graciously, I might add) if they could use our property for this purpose during constructions, and we agreed. In return they are hopefully going to be doing some work for us on our campus (hopefully for free, but at the very least, at a reduced cost).

Construction is slated to begin when school is dismissed for summer break. If you have any questions about their plans, please contact the church office and we will do our best to answer them.



### Chancel Choir and Handbells Ensemble PRACTICE SCHEDULES

Choir Practice -> Wednesdays @ 7:30—9 PM in the Choir Room



-> Sundays @ 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary

David Topping, Chancel Choir Director

Handbells Practice -> Sundays after

fellowship in Room 1-2

Francine Martin, Handbells Ensemble Director



### Prayer Chain Leader Urgently Needed @ FUMC

- Are you interested in supporting those at Faith UMC with illness or health concerns?
- Would you be willing to email or phone Faith folks on the FUMC Prayer Chain?

If so, please **contact either Mike German** through the church office

or **LaVonna Goudie**, @ 602-944-1794 or **Email:** plazgoudie@cox.net



### Connecting with Faith UMC

Website:

[faithumcphoenix.org](http://faithumcphoenix.org)

Videos of Sunday sermons:

[faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/](http://faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/)

On Facebook

[facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix](https://facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix)

[facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup](https://facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup)

**Deadline for the June 2017 issue of the *Koinonia* will be Friday, May 26th. Please submit all articles, information, and photos to Shane Taber, editor. (sctaber56@gmail.com)**

## Joshua's Journey



· · · · ·  
· **"The rich and the poor have this in common: the Lord is the**  
· **maker of them all."**  
· · · · ·

**Proverbs 22:2**

To My Faith Family:

I would like to introduce you to C (her name shortened for privacy). I met C during my second week being co-located at UMOM - United Methodist Outreach Ministries. UMOM is the largest family shelter in the Phoenix area. It was a blessing to be part of a great community bringing God's shalom to a homeless shelter, helping bring emotional stability to a community living in the trenches of society.

When I met C, we spent a great deal of time getting to know each other. About 5 minutes into our first meeting, she began crying. I felt the Spirit's presence and encouraged her to share with me her story.

You see, C is a single mother of 5 children - the oldest being 12 years old and the youngest still an infant. Her children's fathers did not want to be in the picture so she was alone parenting these 5 children.

In addition to being a single parent to 5 children, she and her children were living in transitional housing at UMOM - a program that allows families to live at the campus for up to 2 years. As UMOM is a series of hotels that were converted into family housing, transitional housing participants have slightly larger rooms. However, it was still one room holding six people.

C also had her own medical concerns. She had a tumor in her brain that needed surgery to be removed. Her children's custody, however, was in the balance as she prepared to be in the hospital for an extended period of time. I was able to advocate and coordinate with family members to care for her children and for UMOM to maintain her housing status even though she was not on campus.

On the day of her surgery, I made sure she knew that, along with her UMOM case manager, I would be there supporting her, and together we would be by her side even when she was not aware we were there. Both her case manager and I felt the need to be present as she recovered.

After C recovered, I met with her case manager and coordinator at UMOM to help her coordinate her housing plans. Thankfully, she met criteria for the city of Phoenix housing voucher program. This program provides section 8 level vouchers for people who meet criteria for chronic homelessness. As part of the program, voucher recipients spend their first year in Phoenix with a supportive housing team who helps them locate housing, find furniture, pay utilities and transition them from homelessness to housed.

*(Continued on page 7)*



The problem however, is that between the 10 staff members, the supportive housing program that I support has hundreds of clients. Doing the math, it is near to impossible for us to meet with all clients every week to provide the much-needed mentoring and coaching that those who are transitioning need.

The SOS program (Success off the Streets) is a consortium of multiple not-for-profits (some who are part of the 19 North Community) along with agencies such as Empact, seeking to find healthy ways to meet the needs of the homeless and newly-housed in our community. This includes coordinating services for the human service campus and other agencies such as UMOM or the Justa Center.

Within the SOS group a program exists to allow the community to reach out to the newly housed and be present as they adjust to their new surroundings. The program's purpose is for mentors to assist mentees in developing natural resources to meet their needs, rather not for mentors to simply "provide things." A mentor's commitment to the program lasts at least one year with some level of interaction at least weekly. A mandatory 4-hour training is provided to set mentors up for success.

Understanding that our schedules can be very tight, the coordinator of the SOS program has allowed church groups to designate 4-6 people to work as a team helping one family navigate their new surroundings. This not only reduces the commitment needed from one person to provide mentoring, but gives multiple people the opportunity to be an element of God's grace and mercy to a family.

I believe that God is calling us to support others as they seek healthy ways to permanently address their housing needs. This type of ministry goes along with our ministries with Family Promise to be a beacon of God's love and hope. **In the coming weeks, I would like us to prayerfully consider this opportunity for all of us to share our various gifts and graces with a family in the 19 North area, extending God's hand out into our community. Please contact me at FUMC or at 602-790-1154 if you have any questions about or would like to participate in this much-needed ministry to our local community.**

Thank you for your support and kind consideration.

*- Joshua L Warner, M.Ed. '10; M.Div. '15*

## Meet Cory Mercer & Jeneferr Olme and their daughters, Emily & Elizabeth!





FUMC's Midweek Adult Study Group meets each Wednesday morning from 10 PM and supports Pastor Jody's current sermon series, Keep the Faith. Our discussions use the weekly study guide, "Grow. Pray. Study," as its basis.

All are welcome and invited to join this study group, which meets weekly on Wednesdays at 10:00 AM at the IHOP restaurant located on Northern at 19th.



Come enjoy a cup of hot coffee or a pot of tea and JOIN THE DISCUSSION!

## Faith Lunch Bunch News

by LaVonna Goudie

Faith Lunch Bunch meets monthly on the third Thursday at 11:30 AM to enjoy lunch and each other's company. All are welcome to join in the fun. Our April outing was to Black Angus Steakhouse where eight ladies met for a tasty meal.

**On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will enjoy lunch at Helpings Café which is sponsored by UMOM.** Since the cafe is located near Sky Harbor Airport at 3333 E. Van Buren Street, **we will carpool from FUMC at 10:45 AM.** Those interested in seeing the café menu beforehand should either contact LaVonna Goudie at (602) 944-1794 or plazgoudie@cox.net. or go to <https://www.umom.org/learn-more/social-enterprise/helpings-cafe/>

Helpings Café, Catering and Market is a social enterprise business that provides hand-crafted menu items, job training and hope. All proceeds directly support UMOM New Day Centers.



## Sunday Post-Service Discussions

Looking for opportunities to dig a little deeper after Pastor Jody's sermons? Please freely join one or both hour-long small groups.

### HOPE= Honest Open Perspective Exchange

In keeping with Pastor Jody's messages during Lent, the HOPE group is requesting members with many perspectives join us in an attempt to shed light on our changing world. As Christians we can learn from and teach each other when sharing thoughts and ideas.



This lively discussion group meets after the service during Fellowship Time on the second and third Sundays. In May, HOPE will meet on 5/14 and 5/21 from 11:15 AM. So please bring your coffee and snacks to Room 4 and join the thought-filled and lively conversation!

### 4SWBS = 4th Sunday Women's Bible

#### Study: On Compassionate Acts

On Sunday 5/28, the 4th Sunday Women's Bible Study will meet from 11:15 AM to discuss a selected daily devotional with questions from *The Upper Room*. We also hear the scriptural focus, 1 Corinthians 13: 1–13, read in 3 different languages, English, Spanish and Tamil.

Led by Shane Taber and Eunice Moreno Moses, all FUMC women are invited to join our faith-filled discussions.

## ***Save the Date: Saturday, June 18, 2017 @ 7pm(ish)***

Friends, as many of you know, our own Joshua Warner is being recommended by the Desert Southwest Conference Board of Ordained Ministry for Commissioning as a Deacon in the United Methodist Church. This is a huge milestone for Joshua and one you won't want to miss!

On Thursday June 15th, Joshua will be recommended by the Board to the Clergy Session at Annual Conference. He will be introduced to the clergy at that time, and we will vote on whether to accept the Board's recommendation. Assuming all goes as expected, Joshua's recommendation will be accepted and he will be Commissioned as a Provisional Deacon at the Ordination Service on Saturday evening, June 18.



So, what does that mean? As Deacon in the United Methodist Church, Joshua will serve God's people through the ministries of service, love, and justice. Deacons are ordained United Methodist clergy who lead the church through worship leadership, preaching, teaching, and nurturing spiritual vitality. They may work primarily in congregations or they may work in settings like hospitals, social-service agencies, mission agencies, schools, counseling centers, and denominational agencies.

As a Deacon, Joshua will continue his employment with Empact, helping people who are dealing with mental illness and substance abuse issues. We are hopeful he will also be able to expand his ministry right here at Faith United Methodist Church, using his gifts in the area of Pastoral Care to provide nurturing support to you in your times of need.

With that in mind, we hope you will plan to attend the Ordination Service on Saturday, June 18th and share in this milestone with our dear friend and colleague, Joshua. So, save the date, Saturday, June 18! More information will come very soon!

### **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 cooperation 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.



**Life Line Screening will be at Faith United Methodist Church on Wednesday, May 31st,** offering

safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health and to live longer for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these important screenings today.



**Look for the Life Line Screening sign-up appointment sheet on the information table in the Koinonia Room.** The first 7 people from Faith UMC to pre-register will receive a \$25 discount off of any package priced of \$139 or more!

Learn your risk of having stroke or vascular disease. There is no time like the present to take action!

## **Update on the Recent UMC Judicial Council Rulings**

Friends, last month I asked you to pray for and send letters of support to our newest Episcopal Leader, Bishop Karen Oliveto, and the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area, which she serves as she (and they) prepared for the UMC Judicial Council meeting on April 25. As many of you know, Bishop Oliveto's case was heard by the Judicial Council on that day, and the following Friday, April 28, their ruling was made public. In an effort to keep all of you informed about this case, I offer the following update as I've been able to discern from a variety of different sources.

Last summer, our Western Jurisdictional Conference, which represents the Annual Conferences in the Western United States, met in Scottsdale, Arizona. One of their tasks was to elect a new Bishop. After 17 ballots, Rev. Karen Oliveto, then Lead Pastor at Glide UMC in the Bay Area, was elected to be that Bishop, and at the end of the Jurisdictional Conference, she was consecrated as such. She assumed her responsibilities on September 1, 2016 as Bishop of the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area, which includes the Rocky Mountain and Yellowstone Annual Conferences.

Shortly after her election, a Lay Delegate from the South Central Jurisdictional Conference filed a complaint asking the Judicial Council to rule whether "the nomination, election, consecration, and/or assignment as a bishop of The United Methodist Church of a person who claims to be a 'self-avowed practicing homosexual' or is a spouse in a same-sex marriage" is lawful under our Book of Discipline.



In its ruling, the Judicial Council determined it did not have the authority to rule on a bishop's nomination, election, or assignment, but did have jurisdiction over a bishop's consecration, so the Council's ruling focused on that. **By a vote of 6-3, the Judicial Council ruled that the consecration of a "self-avowed, practicing homosexual" as a bishop violates church law, and a bishop who is deemed a "self-avowed, practicing homosexual" may be charged with disobedience.**

The ruling goes on to say "Self-avowal does not nullify the consecration and cause removal from episcopal office but is a sufficient declaration to subject the bishop's ministerial office to review." What this means is that the case is being referred back to the Western Jurisdiction and its College of Bishops (that is, the bishops assigned to the Annual Conferences within the Western Jurisdiction) for review in accordance with Paragraph 413 of the UMC Book of Discipline.

Because the review process outlined in Paragraph 413 is very complex, I will not go into the details about that at this time. What is very important for us to know is that in the meantime, **Bishop Karen remains a bishop in the United Methodist Church and will continue to oversee the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area for the foreseeable future.** The Western Jurisdiction College of Bishops will release additional information in the future letting us know what will happen next, but in the meantime, we need to continue to keep Bishop Karen – indeed, all our Western Jurisdiction Bishops – in our prayers, as well as our brothers and sisters in the Mountain Sky Episcopal Area.

*(Continued on page 11)*



## New Members Corner

In April, Faith UMC welcomed two new members, John Davis and Joshua Fredericks. In this issue, we'll get to know John a bit more and in June's Koinonia newsletter, Joshua and his interests will be featured.



Born in Illinois, John describes his age as the "same era as Fred Flintstone." He has two adult daughters, Maria and Jazzy and a son-in-law, Josh. As to what led him to FUMC, John succinctly responded: the 3 P's -> 1) Proximity 2) Pastoral welcome and 3) Potluck food (!). His favorite Biblical passages are John 3:16 and Psalm 23. He also likes to attend the contemporary service at neighboring Trinity UMC as well as the Saturday singles group at nearby CrossRoads UMC.

Other favorites include:

Food: fried chicken, Jell-O with pears

Books: Bourne Identity, Spy Who Loved Me

Movies: Speciale Forces (French), Love Affair (with Beatty and Benning)

CDs: the soundtrack of Out of Africa by John Barry, Canto Della Terra by Sarah Brightman

Hobbies: Camping and visiting a beach once every 2 years

John lists one of his quirks as driving "clunkers" and that a "deal breaker" for him is cats due to a deathly allergy. At FUMC, John has become a member of the Neighborhood Outreach Committee/How to Reach New People Team. Welcome and thank you for joining our Faith UMC family, John!



**Welcome to Faith UMC, John and Joshua!**

## Gift from UMC Missionary, the Rev. Claudia Genung Yamamoto

You may have noticed that there is a new picture hanging on the wall in the hallway to the Koinonia Room. It's actually a gorgeous calendar which was a gift sent earlier this year to Faith UMC from UMC Missionary, the Rev. Claudia Genung Yamamoto. This is the second calendar Pastor Claudia has sent to our church as a "thank you" for our prayers of support for her missionary work in Kobe, Japan.

When you look at the calendar's artwork, you may notice both familiar and unfamiliar elements. The topic is clearly Mary with her child, Jesus, but they are not depicted in a Western artistic style. In fact, this "Madonna" (1991) is from the extensive series of biblical-themed prints by the Japanese printmaker, Sadao Watanabe (1913 – 1996). Watanabe is internationally famous for his biblical prints rendered in the "mingei" or folk art tradition of Japan.



Born in Tokyo, Watanabe's father died when he was just 10 years old. Because his family was poor, he dropped out of school to become an apprentice in a dyer's shop. He was baptized as a Christian while still a teen after meeting a Christian woman who invited the fatherless boy to attend church with her. The young Watanabe worked in dyers' shops, sketching patterns and dyeing clothes.

Inspired by the folk arts movement in his home country, Watanabe learned how to apply traditional "katazome" stencil-dyeing techniques to "washi" paper, and began producing prints on biblical themes. Influenced by Buddhist figure prints, Watanabe placed biblical subjects in a Japanese context. In "The Last Supper" (1981) Watanabe depicts the disciples in kimono. On the table are bottles of sake and sushi as well as plates of fish.

The great 20th century Japanese and Christian printmaker once commented that he preferred that his prints hang in the ordinary places of life: "I would



**The Last Supper**

most like to see them [his prints] hanging where people ordinarily gather, because Jesus brought the gospel for the people". Thank you, Pastor Claudia, for your inspirational, faith-filled gift to our United Methodist family here in Phoenix!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>May 2017</b>	<b>1</b> Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>2</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 5:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	<b>3</b> 10:00 am Study Group - 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 12:30 pm Roadrunners - K 1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>7</b> 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	<b>8</b> Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>9</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:30 pm Church Council - Rm 4	<b>10</b> 10:00 am Study Group - 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2 6:00 pm Bird Club - K
<b>14</b> Mothers' Day 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 11:15 am HOPE - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>15</b> Office Closed 4:30 pm WSA-K 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 5:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	<b>17</b> 10:00 am Study Group - 4:30 pm WSA-K 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>18</b> 11:30 am Lunch Bunch	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm Movie Night-S	<b>20</b> 8:00 am UMM Breakfast-K 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 11:00 am C O D A - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>21</b> 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 11:15 am HOPE - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>22</b> Office Closed 4:30 pm WSA-K 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>23</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 7:00 pm Neighborhood Outreach - Rm 4	<b>24</b> Aldersgate Day 10:00 am Study Group - 4:30 pm WSA -K 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>25</b> Ascension Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>28</b> 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 11:15 am 4SWBS - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>29</b> Office Closed <b>Memorial Day</b> 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>30</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	<b>31</b> 10:00 am Study Group - 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>Birthdays:</b> 5/01 Eric Barimbul, 5/01 Roberta Clawson 5/07 Jeff Goudie, 5/11 Joan Hancock, 5/12 Joe Cox, 5/17 Ed Hays, 5/23 June Stafford, 5/26 Cathleen Henderson, 5/28 Elizabeth Mercer, 5/29 Adam Fuchs, 5/29 Emily Mercer <b>Anniversaries:</b> 5/22 Paula & Greg Wolf 5/28 Judy & John Goad		