

Open hearts

Open minds

Open doors

The People of the
United Methodist Church



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

When the bow is
in the clouds, I
will see it and
remember ...



GENESIS 9

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 the conference.

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The KOINONIA
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Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

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September 2014

From the **PASTOR**—

Celebrate!

Last month the Phoenix area was hit by a whole bunch of summer monsoon storms. Some of the storms were the standard variety that we've become accustomed to, but several were absolutely crazy, with so much rain that it caused flood-like conditions all across the Valley of the Sun. During one such storm, a trailer park in Black Canyon City (north of the Phoenix area) had to be evacuated and the northbound side of Interstate 17 became a river of floodwaters. It was absolutely amazing. Many people were affected by the storms. Some lost their homes, and others lost their businesses. It was a very tragic set of events that all came together with disastrous effects, and I have no doubt that many of the people who experienced loss during those floods asked the question, "why me?"



When was the last time you asked yourself "why me?" It's a question we often ask ourselves when bad things happen, and it doesn't matter if the victims are ourselves, our loved ones, or even people we don't know. When bad things happen to good people, we question the existence of evil in our lives, and we wonder how a God who claims to love us can let all these bad things happen, especially to those who are faithful.

During the month of September and into October, we will be exploring the question of

"Why?" in both our sermon series and our short term adult Bible Study. We will talk about the different things that happen in our lives that cause us to ask the question "Why?" and will look toward Scripture to help us gain a better understanding of the "Why?" questions that plague our lives.

This is a subject that is near and dear to my heart, especially in light of some of the things that have happened to me and my family over the years. Sometimes we have a hard time making sense of God's will for our lives. I hope you will join me as we explore the question "Why?" I think the exploration itself will be enlightening and comforting, all at the same time.

*God bless,
Pastor Jody*

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.

Thinking theologically:

Be Still and Know that I am God...Psalm 46:10

Psalm 46 is one of the most beautiful and spiritually uplifting passages in the Bible for me, especially during times when life doesn't seem to be going the way I would like it to go. "God is our refuge and strength" the Psalmist writes, "an ever present help in trouble." These words alone – found in the very first verse of the Psalm are enough to help me realize I am not alone in this world, that God is always with me, and from that knowledge, I can draw comfort and strength. But as we read further into Psalm 46, we find in verse 10 a passage of eight little words that are even more powerful and comforting: "Be still, and know that I am God..."

A couple of years ago, one of my classmates from Iliff School of Theology (and a very dear friend) wrote a beautiful devotional relating to this passage from Psalm 46, and with her permission, I would like to share it with you now:

The modern world bids us to be distracted. In this distraction we believe we can be all things, do all things, demand all things. In this fracture of our abilities, we get downhearted when we have failed because society's demands are very high. We also have lost the art of patience in our rushing around to stretch ourselves so thin that we no longer know if we are coming or going.

Psalm 46:10 holds meaning for me because of the miraculous events that transpire as Jesus journeys to the cross. Even in the last hour, Jesus turns to God in prayer, is still, and listens for God's will amidst the chaos. It allows me permission to retreat, even if only for a moment, to times when I can hear God amidst the chaos of my world. I am also reminded that we are not called by God to be superhuman: this is not the state God desires us to live in. Instead,

we are called to seek God always and to be still and know.

Prayer: *Oh God of us all, help me to relax, stop, and be calm, even in chaos. Amen.*

Beckie Henselmeier, Seminary Student at Iliff School of Theology, Director of Children's Ministry at First United Methodist Church of San Diego, wife and mother of two beautiful young daughters...in other words, one very busy young woman!!

I encourage you all to take a moment out of your busy days to be still and listen for God's voice amidst the chaos. Feel free to use the following as a mantra during your quiet times as a reminder of God's promise to us all...

Be still and know that I am God...

Be still and know...

Be still...

Be...



COME SEE HOW OUR GARDEN GROWS!

West Alice gardeners have had a busy August, preparing for the fall planting season. We have harvested old crops and have begun planting our fall/winter crops. In addition, we have extended our garden by building 6 new beds. (We now have a total of 14 beds!!) We have carted in topsoil to fill these beds, and are extending our irrigation system. Now many of the beds are planted, and we are watching eagerly for plants to sprout.

We are especially happy that several new gardeners from the community have joined us. There are still beds available for you, too...for your personal use or to donate to the food bank. Talk to the Krieges or to Paula Wolf if you are interested in growing with us.

Upcoming Sermons at Faith UMC

Have you ever wondered why bad things happen to good people? Or why our prayers seem to go unanswered? During our sermon series and accompanying study group time, we will explore these and other "Why?" questions in our sermon series called "Why?"

The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss

September 7: Rocks or Sand (*Yertle the Turtle*)

Why?

September 14 Why Do the Innocents Suffer?

September 21 Why Do My Prayers Go Unanswered?

September 28 Why Can't I See God's Will for My Life?

October 5 Why God's Love Prevails

Joshua's Journey

It is my third and final full year in seminary. I am thankful that I have completed all my classes with strong grades the last two years, and am excited about all the additional classes that I will be taking to complete my program. Looking at the (shorter) list of classes, I see not only graduation coming soon, but also the importance of all the classes I will take.



This month, I will be traveling to Dayton for 12 days to take probably two of the most important classes – preaching and counseling. I find it quite interesting that I am going to spend two weeks learning about perhaps the two most important tasks a pastor has – proclamation and pastoral care.

What I appreciate about these classes is that learning is an ongoing process and that my experiences in these two areas give me a good foundation from which to draw from as I write papers and engage in class discussions. I have learned what areas I am good at, and what areas could use some improvement. Had I not had those opportunities prior to attending school, I don't know that I would be in such a successful position.

I ask for your continued prayers for safe travels for all my colleagues, peace of mind for our instructors who will be teaching for 4 days, 13 hours a day, and pray for our churches that are supporting us along the path.

GRANDMA'S LUNCH BUNCH



Grandma's Lunch Bunch meets on the third Thursday of each month for food and fellowship. All ladies are welcome to attend. Our August get-together was to have hamburgers at Fuddruckers. There were nine of us attending and the burgers were very tasty.



We decided to go next to "Fast Eddie's Diner" located on Bell Road at 33rd Avenue (17017 N. 33rd Ave.) We meet for lunch at 11:30 AM and would welcome all of you that like food and fun on September 18th.



In God's Graces, Joshua



ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

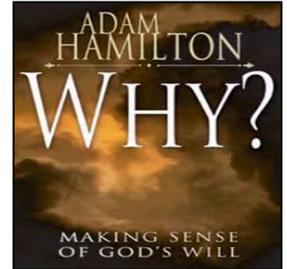
FAMILY PROMISE COMING OCTOBER 19TH—26TH

We would love your help with cooking or as an overnight host. To get involved, contact the Krieges or Carol Getting..

For 13 years, the Family Promise Emergency Shelter Program has provided more than just shelter. They help families cope with their current housing crisis and teach them life-skills that will enable them to return to independent living and self-sufficiency. Clients in this program are served during the day at our Day Center and are transported by bus to support congregations at night. There volunteers will prepare and serve our families meals, provide safe sleeping quarters, play with the children, and help students with their homework. Each morning, the families are transported by bus back to our Day Center where they will receive meals, clothing, do their laundry, search for jobs, take care of their children, and receive case management, counseling and life-skills training. This unique program demonstrates high levels of success by keeping the family unit together, unlike other shelter programs. Besides providing basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter, we provide a safe, encouraging, and constructive environment for families that feel lost and scared. For the past 13 years, over 70% of the families accepted into the Family Promise Emergency Shelter Program have successfully moved on to independent or transitional housing within 60 days of entering the program. Family Promise's long-term goal is to break the cycle of homelessness and create a sense of community.

Christian Education is an important part of being a follower of Christ. It is through fellowship and learning together that we become stronger in our faith and closer to Jesus Christ.

With that in mind, our Wednesday Morning Bible Study Group will begin meeting on September 10 at 10am and will be working through Rev. Adam Hamilton's study called *Why? Making Sense of God's Will*. This 4-week study will parallel the sermon series, after which the group will move on to another study topic. All who are interested in attending the *Why?* study are welcome to join us on Wednesdays at 10am. If you are not able to participate in this study on Wednesday mornings but would like to still join in, we will make it available on different days of the week and different times of day. Please check your bulletins or contact the office for more information on the different days and times this study will be offered.



One of Pastor Jody's strengths is leading small group Bible Studies and Sunday School classes. At Los Arcos United Methodist Church, she taught the children's Sunday School class and led a ministry called Sidewalk Sunday School, which brought the gospel to otherwise unchurched children in the communication. At Gold Canyon UMC, she led a number of small and large group studies for adults while she was serving as Director of Congregational Care, and she is eager to begin offering a lot of different Adult Christian Education classes here at Faith UMC.

Pastor Jody has been asking for input from people in the congregation to find out where your interests lie and what kinds of classes you would like to attend. If you have not had a chance to fill out one of her surveys, please contact the church office to offer your input on future small group and Bible studies.

19th AVENUE TRAFFIC CHANGES

As Valley Metro construction progresses on the light rail extension Faith access will continue to fluctuate. Weather permitting, crews will have paved the west side of 19th Avenue in front of the church by the first of September. North and Southbound traffic will then be



possible for people to turn left onto 19th Avenue. There will be a temporary U-turn area

just south of Faith, however, near the school bus entrance to Royal Palm Middle School. This means that, for the time being, people wishing

to turn North onto 19th Avenue from Faith UMC will be able to first turn South (right) onto 19th Avenue and then

reverse their course at Royal Palm Middle School. According to Jessica Blazina, Community Outreach Coordinator for Valley Metro, this U-turn should stay in place until the traffic signal at 19th Avenue and Alice is installed and functioning.

Entrance and egress through the Richard I. Miller Elementary School parking lot continues to be available for those not wanting to use



19th Avenue. There will be times that Alice is closed at 19th Avenue, but it should always be possible to access it from 23rd Avenue.

Valley Metro's website gives the following update on the construction: "With summer's arrival, construction crews on the Northwest Extension are working earlier shifts to avoid the intense midday heat. Residents will begin to notice significant progress on the alignment including the installation of new guideway curbs and the first pieces of rail that will be welded to form new tracks. Eighty-foot pieces of track will be welded together to form "strings" that are a total of 720 feet long. The strings of track will be stored near Tuckey Ave. until they are installed into the guideway.



"Early morning travelers along 19th Ave. will observe that trackway concrete is being poured during cooler hours of the day to help it cure properly.

"Construction on the new stations will begin soon, making the light rail project closer to its 2016 opening."



LEAVE YOUR LOVED ONES PEACE OF MIND

It's probably the last taboo topic in America - serious illness and death. Duet is hosting an advance directive workshop to help you plan the kind of care you want to receive if you ever become seriously ill and can't communicate for yourself. Our congregation is a partner with Duet, and our members and friends are warmly invited to attend. It takes place on Friday, September 26, from 9 - 11:30 a.m. at Duet, 555 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021. Call (602) 274-5022, Ext 32 to RSVP.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN STAY COOL

Grandparents and the grandchildren they are raising are invited to an ice cream social and magic show on Saturday, September 6th. In addition to social activities for grandfamilies, Duet also offers grandparent support groups, educational workshops, legal guidance, guardianship clinics, and respite. To RSVP or to learn more, contact (602) 274-5022, Ext 44 or Dominguez@duetaz.org. The ice cream social takes place from 12:30 - 2:30 pm at Duet, 555 West Glendale Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85021. It is free, but please bring toppings to share.

August



In Review

August 3

As members returned from summer vacations and others prepared to leave, David was busy tweaking lights in the sanctuary. For some it appeared we were at boot camp as Mike German, Virginia FitzPatrick, and Carol Getting navigated the area with the fancy orthopedic wrapping. Virginia's foot has healed from its fracture, and Carol's feet have recovered from their surgery, but it appears it will still be quite a while before Mike is bootless!



August 10



Balloons decorated the sanctuary as Pastor Jody concluded the "Faith Flicks" sermon series with Up!

August 17 **BON VOYAGE!**

The Franco-Price family started a new phase of their life this month as they moved north. They were feted at coffee chat on this, their last Sunday at Faith.



August 31 **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS!**

We celebrate two birthdays at coffee chat this Sunday. Eleanor Heath turned 99 on the 26th - which makes Mary Souter seem like a spring chicken as she observes her 85th on the 31st.

Fry's Rewards



Did you remember to sign up or re-enroll in the Fry's Community Rewards Program? September 1st is when the old enrollment is no longer valid. If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

2014 CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX PROGRAM

PLEASE SAVE BOXES

The Christmas Food Box program will be here before we know it. Virginia and I are already starting to purchase food when we find a good sale.

But we also need for you to save some of your boxes instead of recycling them. If by chance you have a box or boxes that are approximately the following sizes, and you don't need them. Please save them. If you bring them to Church, I will break them down and save them. The sizes can be any of the following dimensions:

DEPTH	15¾"	11½"	12"
WIDTH	11¼"	13"	12¼"
LENGTH	18"	19"	18"

The box should be about 1.5 cubic feet.

This is the first year we are asking you to save boxes for us. If you have them, we would like to save them and use them. This would save us from having to buy boxes. We need about 60 boxes each year.

Thanks for your help in this mission project.

Mike and Virginia FitzPatrick

LOOKING ONLINE ..



With the outbreak of **Ebola** in West Africa declared an international health emergency, The United Methodist Church is responding with relief as well as communications support. The Religious Leaders Task Force on Ebola, chaired by United Methodist Bishop John K. Yambasu, was launched July 11th Sierra Leone. A UM health center in Sierra Leone has been closed and quarantined. Health workers are contracting the disease. There are many pertinent articles on the UMC website. Start with this one - <http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/church-uses-communications-to-combat-ebola-outbreak> – and you will find many more links on the right side of the page to related stories.

While in a lengthy induced coma, Sam Murillo had a vision of what Jesus considers that most important act of discipleship. Read about his dream and **washing feet** at <http://read.nextbook.com/unitedmethodist/interpreter/julyaugust2014/washingfeetadreamforaservant.html> .

RAMBLINGS



FROM THE EDITOR

I was prepared to “ramble” about other topics this month, but something happened the other night as Dick and I were riding the light rain home from a ball game. A man entered the car, sat down in the row facing us, and immediately started trying to talk with/to other people in the area. He was thin and scruffy, with scraggly hair and beard. He may have been homeless – I don't know. Although he did not yell, his voice was firm and loud enough to command attention. And that seemed to be what he wanted. He told us that he was a vet, that he had relatives that fought in the World Wars, that his mother was Italian, etc., etc. And if he could catch someone's eye he would ask such questions as, “You're American aren't you?” Some people responded to him. Others tried to keep their eyes averted. Answers to questions provoked more pronouncements and more questions. This was obviously one we would call “on the fringes of society.” What did I do? A little of both. I just plain did not know what to do. But it bothered me. It bothered me because I did not know how! How do I respond to this person? How do I help this person? I just did not know how. The ride was soon over and everyone parted company, but I still wonder – how?

FROM MARIA AND AMY

As you can imagine we are incredibly busy unpacking and getting kids registered and ready for school. We are loving our new home. It's very funky with an older historical flare. Our home was built in 1911 and we're pretty sure most of the original structure is still here. We're almost completely unpacked. We have a full basement and have used that for our 'staging area'. The kids love the stairs!! Alex and Perla are upstairs and the mom's and Diamond are on ground level, with the fish and the bird of course. We started working on the yard slowly.



Rest stop for Lu-Lu and Perla in Oregon



Alex is officially a Lewis and Clark High School Tiger!!

The mornings are the coolest temps (70's) and when we do our busiest work. We found out everything is electric, including our dryer hook-up, so our next adventure will be buying a new electric dryer. We're all so happy with Spokane. The people are welcoming and friendly. All the college kids (Eastern Washington State and Gonzaga) come back next week so we'll see how busy it gets. I'll include a couple of photos of the kids. Thank you so much for everything!! We love and miss you all. A special thanks to Carol and John for the two loaves of fresh baked bread, left over chicken salad, and generous gift for the kids. We had sandwiches and juice drinks the entire three day drive to Washington :) .

CHURCH CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars for Sunday, October 26th. Faith's Church Conference has been scheduled for 6:00 pm that evening. The SPRC will meet one hour earlier.

Thank you to all who have had my husband, Bill, and me in your prayers, the expression of concerns, cards, and visits by Gary and Jane. They were very much appreciated. Please continue to pray for me and my family as we mourn his death.

Barbara Sullivan and Family

DARBY'S CELEBRATE WITH A RIVER CRUISE

Our 49th wedding anniversary is coming up in December. A year ago some friends wondered about a European river cruise, and I was able to regale about floating down the Danube with my sister about 10 years ago. One thing led to another, and we three couples signed up a year in advance for a Tauck river cruise down the Rhine. It began in Basel, Switzerland and seven days later ended in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Our weather was delightful, only one day of rain. We saw castles and cathedrals, were served dinner in an old castle, snacks of beer or apple strudel, saw works of art, and walked a lot. We loved seeing working windmills, tasting Gouda cheese, and watching wooden shoes being carved. We enjoyed gourmet meals on the ship, lively waiters, cocktails on the poop deck, and wind in our hair. We slept like logs and awakened to glorious days on the water. We managed to get a few post cards written and mailed. It was a wonderful way to celebrate 49 years together.



Janet and TJ Darby

Faith UMC Website:

umcfaitphx.org

Videos of Sunday sermons

umcfaitphx.org/worship/sermon-videos/

Faith UMC Facebook Page:

facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix

Faith UMC Facebook Group:

facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  HAPPY LABOR DAY 6:00 pm - Quilters.....4 6:00 pm - TOPS-1-2	2 10:00 am - Quilters.....4 6:30 pm - Trustees4 6:00 pm - TOPS-1-2	3 8:00 am - Life Screening . K 7:30 pm - Choir PracticeCR	4 9:00 am - RIAZ.....K	5	6 12:30 pm- Forever 39'ers K 2:00 pm- Recovery1-2	
7 8:30 am--Choir..... Sanctuary 9:30 am--Worship Sanctuary 10:00 am--Sunday School 10:45 am -Coffee Chat K 11:15 am--Handbells' 1-2 1:00 pm -Samoan Worship	8 6:00 pm - Quilters4 6:00 pm - TOPS..... 1-2 6:30 pm -ScoutsK	9 9:00 am -Zippers..... 1-2 10:00 am -Quilters4 6:00 pm - Finance4 7:00 pm -Ad Council 4	10 10:00 am -Why? Study Group 1-2 7:30 pm -Choir PracticeCR	11 9:00 am - RIAZ.....K	12 2:00 pm - Recovery 1-2 6:00 pm --- Bird ClubK	
14 8:30 am - Choir..... Sanctuary 9:30 am - Worship .Sanctuary 10:00 am - Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat K 11:15 am - Handbells1-2 1:00 pm - Samoan Worship	15 6:00 pm - Quilters4 6:00 pm - TOPS..... 1-2 6:30 pm - ScoutsK	16 9:00 am - Zippers..... 1-2 10:00 am - Quilters4 6:00 pm - Movie Night..... S	17 10:00 am - Why? Study Group 1-2 7:30 pm - Choir PracticeCR	18 9:00 am - RIAZK 11:30 am - Lunch Bunch	19 7:00 am - UMM BreakfastK 11:00 am - ANCOR..... 1-2 2:00 pm- Recovery 1-2	
21 8:30 am-Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am-Worship-Sanctuary 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat - K 11:15 am-Handbells- 1-2 1:00pm - Samoan Worship	22 6:00 pm - Quilters4 6:00 pm - TOPS..... 1-2 6:30 pm - ScoutsK	23 9:00 am -Zippers 1-2 10:00 am -Quilters4 7:00 pm - NO Meeting 4	24 10:00 am -Why? Study Group 1-2 7:30 pm - Choir PracticeCR	25 9:00 am - RIAZK	26 2:00 pm - Recovery 1-2	
28 8:30 am-Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am-Worship-Sanctuary 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:45 am - Coffee Chat - K 11:15 am-Handbells- 1-2 1:00pm - Samoan Worship	29 6:00 pm - Quilters.....4 6:00 pm - TOPS 1-2 6:30 pm - ScoutsK	30 9:00 am -Zippers 1-2 10:00 am -Quilters4 6:00 pm - Movie Night S	<h1>September 2014</h1>			Birthdays: 9/6 Mckenna Wolf 9/17 Jeremy Goad 9/12 Judy Goad 9/14 Norlene Bateman 9/24 Kris Dotto 9/26 Ivy Peterson Anniversaries: 9/16 Bob & Carolyn MacAlpine 9/18 Bill & Dolores Pfaff