

*Open hearts*

*Open minds*

*Open doors*

**The People of the  
United Methodist Church**



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

***Trust in him at all time, you  
people; pour out your hearts  
to him, for God is our refuge.***



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

8640 North 19th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

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# Koinonia

## *Faith United Methodist Church*

8640 North 19th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Phone: (602) 943-3465

September 2016

### *From the* **PASTOR**—

When David and I were members at Los Arcos UMC in Scottsdale, we were asked to serve on a committee tasked with considering ways we as a congregation would interface with a new development being planned for the property across the street from the church. The plans for the land included a new stadium for our local professional hockey team, the Phoenix Coyotes. For many, many months, this committee – known as the Los Arcos Redevelopment Committee – met with the developers and representatives from the City of Scottsdale, in an effort to make our concerns and desires known with regard to what would be built. Our goal was to minimize the impact of the development on the church and its ministries, so we could continue being a vital congregation in ministry with the community. But even as we met with the developer and the City, redevelopment of the land moved forward, with buildings being demolished on a daily basis, which of course had a negative impact on the life of the church. Eventually the developer, in a fit of frustration, pulled out of the project, sold the land (which had previously been Los Arcos Mall) to the City of Scottsdale, and left.



When that happened, the Redevelopment Committee transitioned into a new Revitalization Committee, because by the time the developer pulled out, there was very little left of the Los Arcos Mall area. Only the church, a grocery

store, and a few small businesses remained. So our focus as a committee shifted as we looked for ways we could bring new life into the church and remain a vital part of the community.

Today, at Faith UMC we are in a similar situation as we looked toward the future. When the City of Phoenix started extending the light rail, the neighborhood around the church suffered, just like the neighborhood around Los Arcos UMC did. Access to the church was difficult at best, and attendance for worship and especially for other events waned. For several years, the entire area from Bethany Home to Dunlap roads suffered because of the construction.

But now that the construction is done and the light rail is completely operational, it's time for us to do like Los Arcos did and look for ways

### **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.



we can revitalize...and the good news is, we aren't in this boat alone! Several other churches along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue have banded together to look for ways we can be share the light of Christ to the people in this community, and Faith UMC is a part of this effort. Spearheaded by our city council member Daniel Valenzuela, the 19<sup>th</sup> North Interfaith Council has met several times to determine ways we as churches can bring new life to the community. The first event in which we participated was a July 4<sup>th</sup>/Independence Day gathering at Royal Palm Park not far from our church. Our booth distributed free breakfast burritos, which were a big hit with those who attended. We are also working on ways we can be a presence in our neighborhood schools, including those to the

north and west of Faith UMC (Richard E. Miller Elementary and Royal Palm Middle Schools). What's exciting about this coalition of churches is that we are working as a team to bring new life and hope to a community that has been struggling to remain vibrant and vital.

I'm very excited about the possibilities for the future, especially in light of this new coalition of churches. I hope all of you will join me and others in our church in participating together in whatever new ministries grow out of this effort.

God is alive and well in north Phoenix, especially on 19<sup>th</sup> North! Let us all praise God for these new opportunities to be in ministry with our community.

God Bless, *Pastor Jody*

## **Thinking theologically with Pastor Jody:**

*"Behold, I am making all things new."*

Revelation 21:5 (ESV)

Well, it's finally happened: summer vacation is over and a new school year is upon us. And with a new school year comes new opportunities, not only for our school children, but in the life of our church.

Since the beginning of this year, we've seen a lot of change occur in and around our church.



The light rail extension was completed this past Spring, and once again we are seeing more traffic flowing along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. More folks are joining us for worship on Sunday mornings, and just last month we welcomed 7 new members into the life of our church. And in the coming months, we will be offering new opportunities to grow in our faith and our knowledge of God. Yes, we are entering into a time of new beginnings: a time of renewal and revitalization.

Revitalization is the process of infusing new life into someone or something. As it relates to the church, revitalization implies changing the way we do ministry by reaching out into the mission field and moving the church toward growth. Revitalization is an important aspect of being the church, because without it, the church grows stagnant and dies. In fact, revitalization is such an important theme, that almost every church leadership seminar I've attended has included at least one session on ways to revitalize the church.

The problem is, there's no single formula that works for every church when it comes to revitalization. At best, it's a "hit and miss" proposition – one that requires a lot of trial and error. What's more, when we try something new and it doesn't work, we get discouraged, and then we are inclined to just give up.

Revitalization is also a fearful proposition, because it requires us by definition to do something new and different – and anytime we do something new and different, something unfamiliar or outside of our routine, we all

## **Thinking Theologically cont.**

experience fear: fear of the unknown. So embarking on a process of revitalization isn't easy. It takes strength, perseverance, power, and sound judgment.

Last month, I attended a leadership seminar in Mesa, and wouldn't you know it, the subject of revitalization came up! And one of the speakers, John C. Maxwell, said something so profound that it's still stuck in my head. What was it that he said that made such an impression on me? It was the same thing he wrote in a blog post in July of this year:

Everything worthwhile is uphill. I've been saying that a lot lately. Because it's a fact. Almost everything that has value, almost everything that has purpose, requires work on our part to attain it. We have to put in the effort to get where we want to go. Think about it – you want a good marriage? You have to work at it. You want a good career? You have to work at it. You want to change your life, achieve a goal, do something you've never done before? You have to work at it. Nothing that is good in life comes easy. And very little that comes easy is good. You have to work at it.

When Mr. Maxwell said this, everyone around me nodded, because he was right: everything worthwhile does take work. But then he followed this statement up with something even more profound and true:

*But too many people don't seem to want to climb a hill. They just want to wait at the bottom and let whatever is at the top roll down to them! I don't know about you, but I've seen enough cartoons to know that whatever rolls downhill is rarely something you want to get in front of. If you don't believe me, just ask Wile E. Coyote from Looney Tunes. So why do some people prefer to stand at the bottom, waiting around? Maybe they are afraid of the climb. Maybe they don't think they can make it to the top. Maybe they don't have the energy or stami-*

*na necessary to go up the hill. Maybe they lack the discipline. Or maybe they just like the feeling of coasting.*

Unfortunately, we are downhill people living in an uphill world. We figure if we wait long enough, the worthwhile stuff will trickle down to us. Or we think that because we've already paid our dues – we've already done the uphill climbing in our lives – that it's time for someone else to do the climbing...but we still want to reap the benefits, even though we haven't done the climbing! Mr. Maxwell went on to say:

*If everything worthwhile is uphill, that means you have to make the choice to go and get it. You have to put one foot in front of the other and take that hill a step at a time. You must grow and stretch yourself a little every day. You may not conquer a mountain at first, but for every hill you do conquer, you gain confidence for the next climb. And there is always another hill to start climbing from the bottom.*

Now, you may be thinking to yourself, "what does this have to do with revitalization?" Everything! Absolutely everything! Because revitalization – the act of infusing new life – isn't easy: it's hard work. And it's also worthwhile, because without it, our churches, our neighborhoods, even our bodies will die. Revitalization is crucial to our very existence. It's part of who we are, and who we need to be.

Which brings me to my focus for this month: our church has been asked to be part of a new coalition of churches tasked with helping to revitalize the neighborhood along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Bethany Home and Dunlap. As a group, the 19<sup>th</sup> North Coalition of Churches is developing new ideas and implementing new projects designed to help our community be a better place to live, work, and worship. Is it going to be easy? No. Because nothing worthwhile is easy. Everything worthwhile is uphill.

In various places throughout this newsletter you'll find articles about some of the things the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Coalition of Churches is

working on. I pray all of us will all be involved at some level, either by lifting us up in prayer or contributing your time and/or financial resources. Together we can make a difference. Together we can make that uphill climb toward something meaningful and worthwhile: revitalization of our neighborhood and our church.

God Bless, *Pastor Jody*

## 19<sup>th</sup> North Interfaith Council Food Box Mission for Local Students

The 19<sup>th</sup> North Interfaith Council is developing new ways for us to revitalize the community in and around 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Northwest Phoenix. One of the projects we are embarking on is providing food boxes for needy families during the Fall and Winter school breaks.

You may not be aware of this, but both Richard E. Miller Elementary and Royal Palm Middle Schools have many children who receive free and reduce-cost lunches during the school year. For some of these children, these meals are the most nutritious and filling meals they get during the week. Because they come from low income homes, they may not even get another meal during the day. What that also means is that when school is on break, these children and their family may not eat.

Because the need is so great, area churches are being asked to help provide some basic food items to these families during the school breaks. At Faith, we are being asked to put together 10 food boxes with specific food items that will help feed a family of 4-6 for the upcoming Fall Break.

The items to be included in the food boxes are listed with this article. We expect the total cost of these items to be approximately \$30, depending on where they are purchased. If you are able to purchase these items yourself, we will have boxes available in the office for you to fill and return by Friday, September 23. If, however, you are not able to purchase these items on your own, we will accept donations in any amount to go toward buying the food to be put in the boxes. Please make sure you designate your donation as "19<sup>th</sup> North Food Boxes."

### Grand Opening Celebration OCTOBER 7, 6PM - 8PM



Open Door Fellowship Church  
8301 N. 19th Ave, Phx 85021  
For more information, contact  
Shannon McBride at (602) 677-7797

COME AND HEAR THIS EXCITING NEWS ABOUT  
**YOUR COMMUNITY!**

City of Phoenix, planning, parks, police  
Washington Elementary School District  
Neighborhood Groups  
Local Government  
Faith Partners  
Local Businesses  
And YOU!



Join us as we gather together to make our community stronger, safer and more beautiful!

Faithful Friends,

Throughout this newsletter you will find a number of articles about our partnership with a new coalition of churches along 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue. As your pastor, I am very excited to be a part of the Steering Team for this coalition, and am thrilled by the opportunities being made available to us to be in ministry with those in our community.

In addition to the many activities and opportunities highlighted in this newsletter, I am thrilled to announce that we are having a **Grand Opening Celebration on October 7 from 6-8pm at Open Door Fellowship**, right down the street from Faith UMC. Those present at this celebration will be other faith-based partners along with representatives from local businesses, neighborhood groups, and the neighboring schools.

I urge you all to attend this Grand Opening celebration! I'll be there...will you?

Blessings, *Pastor Jody*

## Upcoming Sermons:

### ***Half Truths – God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say***

During the month of September, we will be taking a look at some popular sayings we sometimes share, not realizing that they miss the mark. They are simple phrases, like "God helps those who help themselves," and "Everything happens for a reason." They sound Christian – like something we might find in our Bibles, but they really aren't biblical. We've all heard these words. Maybe we've said them. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways. So we hope you will join us and bring your friends as we discover the whole truth by comparing common Christian clichés with the wisdom that's actually found in Scripture.

**September 4 – *Everything Happens for a Reason***

**September 11 – *God Helps Those Who Help Themselves***

**September 18 – *God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle***

**September 25 – *God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It***

**October 2 – *Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin***

### ***Connect with FUMC!***

**Faith UMC Website:**  
[faithumcphoenix.org](http://faithumcphoenix.org)

**Videos of Sunday sermons:**  
[faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/](http://faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/)

**Faith UMC Facebook Page:**  
[facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix](https://facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix)

**Faith UMC Facebook Group:**  
[facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup](https://facebook.com/groups/FaithUMCPhxGroup)

## ***Wednesday Morning Study Group to Resume September 7***

I've heard it said that a half-truth is the same as a whole lie. I'm not sure I agree with that, because I genuinely like to believe that most people have good intentions. But what is a half-truth, and why is it important for us to recognize them for what they really are?

Beginning on September 7 at 10am, our Wednesday Morning Study Group will explore that question as we begin our new study called *Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say*.

The study will parallel Pastor Jody's *Half Truths* Sermon Series that will begin on September 4. In the study group, we will not only unpack the sermon from the previous Sunday, but will look at additional ways in which the weekly topic impacts our lives.

The books that will be the basis of our study are available for purchase for \$13.50. They are normally \$20 each, but Pastor Jody was able to get a limited supply at this reduced cost. If you would like one of these books so you can join the study, or if you'd like to read it as a supplement to the sermon series, please contact the church office so we can reserve a book for you.

The books can also be purchased in large print and electronic format through Amazon.com or Christianbooks.com. Please check out those websites to purchase the book in the format you prefer. Below is the schedule for the study:

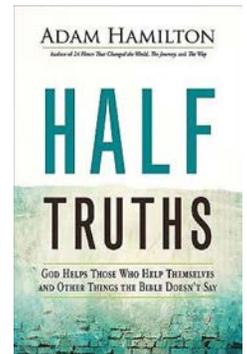
9/7 – *Everything Happens for a Reason*

9/14 – *God Helps Those Who Help Themselves*

9/21 – *God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle*

9/28 – *God Said It, I Believe It, That Settles It*

10/ 5 – *Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin*



## Joshua's Journey

Friends,

During our recent sermon series about the Olympics, I had the opportunity to share a message titled "Endurance and Perseverance." I shared many examples about people who never gave up on their dreams and, although they went through trials, they were able to make it through the tough times so that they could reach their goal.

Endurance and perseverance are key components of our lives. In my area of ministry, I have the opportunity to share God's grace with many who are on the fringes of society and have given up on life as they would like it to be. Rather than being oriented to the future, they are hopeless. I believe that when we encounter those who have given up, that is our key opportunity to share the love and grace of a God who has not given up on us.

Additionally, we should not give up on ourselves. The journey towards my commissioning and ordination has been one of the toughest challenges in my life. While I am blessed by God to be called into ministry with the church, that does not come with its stresses. Articulating my calling, observing that call evolve into something different I started with, and making the bold decision to enter my area of ministry sooner than I anticipated have come with its struggles.

What keeps me going is my love for God, my love of Faith UMC and our universal church, and the love and grace we all show for those who are struggling. It gives me hope and encouragement that all of our work is for God's glory.

Although this journey is not complete, I am at a point in my candidacy where I have written exams encompass all of my learning thus far and require much of my time. This is an exciting opportunity to really consider my theology and experiences throughout the last 5 years and is a way to consider and show what I truly believe about our Wesleyan faith.

As I complete these many tasks, I ask that you hold me in your prayers. The love and grace you have shown me in the last 3+ years has been a testament to how great our Faith community is – People caring for people!



### ***Honest Open Perspective Exchange (HOPE) for September 2016***

Our dates for HOPE will be the second and third Sundays in September, 9/11 and 9/18. We meet in Room 4 immediately after the service. Some folks come to discuss, while others come just to listen. Many discussions lead to ways of applying parts of Pastor Jody's timely messages.

First get your refreshments and then come join our lively discussion! Please join us if you can. All ages and viewpoints are welcome. The HOPE discussion facilitators are Karen Clark and David Devlin.

### **Fall Dates for 4SWBS Set**

Using *The Upper Room* as the basis for their study, the Fourth Sunday Women's Bible Study group meets after the service once a month in Room 4 for a joy-filled hour of discussion, prayer and fellowship. Included during each meeting are readings of the featured scripture in English, Spanish and Tamil. **The fall meeting dates will be 9/25, 10/23, and 11/27; December = TBA.** Free copies of *The Upper Room* are available from the FUMC office, both in small and large print; free-will donations will be accepted. **All FUMC women are invited!**

# **19<sup>th</sup> North Interfaith Council**

## **ANCHORS Student Mentoring Opportunities**

As you've undoubtedly noticed from some of the other articles in this newsletter, the 19<sup>th</sup> North Interfaith Council is offering many opportunities for us to be in ministry with our community. One of these opportunities involves being an adult mentor to middle school students who are at risk.

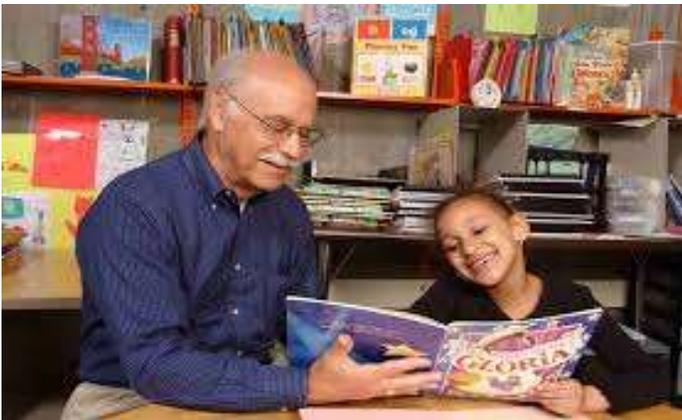
The opportunity, called the **Seven Anchors Mentoring Program**, matches middle school students with adult mentors who meet together with the purpose of helping the students build positive self-esteem and encourage them to have a successful school year.

Mentors will be trained by the program sponsors on ways they can and should interact

with the students. These training sessions are absolutely free and are a requirement in order to participate in the program. After being trained, mentors will then meet with their assigned student for 15 minutes a week during school hours, and will also attend periodic special events with their student every month.

The **training sessions** for the Seven Anchors Mentors will be held on **Tuesday, October 18 from 1:30pm-5pm**, and on **Thursday, October 20 from 6pm-9pm at Open Door Fellowship, located at 8301 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue (just one block south of Faith UMC)**. Volunteer mentors will need to attend one of these training sessions.

I truly hope you will prayerfully consider becoming a Seven Anchors Mentor because I know all of you have so much to offer to these young students. **If you are willing and able to become a mentor, please contact Pastor Jody ASAP so she can pass your contact information to our 19<sup>th</sup> North Interfaith Council Coordinator for this ministry.** We would like to have our mentors identified as soon as possible, but no later than October 13.



### ***Faith Lunch Bunch News*** **by LaVonna Goudie**

If you enjoy eating out at a variety of different lunch spots, join in the fun with the Faith Lunch Bunch group. We meet on the third Thursday of each month at a spot chosen the previous month.

In August, 14 Lunch Bunch ladies met at Chili's at Metro Center to enjoy salads, Mexican dishes and sandwiches. **This month, we will be going to Fuddruckers located at 8941 North Black Canyon Highway.** All are welcome to join us for lunch **at 11:30 A.M. on September 15th** for a fun lunch. No Cooking. No Clean Up. Please Come!



**WALK FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**  
*founded by the UMOM Women's Auxiliary*

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**  
8:00am Walk Begins  
at The Phoenix Zoo  
455 N Galvin Pkwy • Phoenix, AZ 85008

Please join UMOM to raise money and awareness for the homeless families and individuals in our community!

**Free Zoo Admission with Registration**

Walk features free and fun activities including a kids zone, sponsor give-aways, food, mascots and more!



To register online or for more information  
[www.umom.org](http://www.umom.org) - 602.275.7852



## Report from Desert Southwest Annual Conference

by D'Shawn Reyes-Warner

I recently went to the Desert Southwest Annual Conference of 2016 as a youth delegate. I was elected to represent the Central West District. This was a great experience because I felt like I was even more apart of church than I ever had been before. It gave me more of a responsibility by the district to take part in the voting and get my perspective as a youth and also for the future of the church.

As I went to each day of this conference, we had voting to complete. These were important times in the life of our conference. As a youth participant, this showed to me that the church is trying to reach out to the youth. This is a great thing for the church as it tries to mold the future of the church. I was greatly honored to be a part of the Annual Conference.



## Lura Turner Homes UPDATE

During the summer, Faith United Methodist Church embarked on a Rezoning process with the City of Phoenix. The purpose of requesting that our property be rezoned was to accommodate our tenant, Lura Turner Homes, and their Day Training Activity Center (or DTA).

As part of this process, representatives from the church and Lura Turner Homes made a presentation to the Village Planning Committee, which approved the recommended zoning change with some stipulations. The request was then presented to the City's Planning and Zoning Board, which also approved the request with some stipulations.



Our final step is to go before the City Council. We are confident that the rezoning request will be approved by the Council and soon we will be seeing more activity around the Faith UMC campus as our Lura Turner Homes friends begin meeting in the DTA.

We know this has been a long process, but we want to especially thank Don Campbell, president of the Lura Turner Homes Board of Directors, and Max McQueen, Executive Director for their work during this process.



**Save the Date:**  
**October 11, 2016**  
**Faith UMC's Annual**  
**Church Conference**

On Tuesday, October 11, we will hold our annual Church Conference. We will begin our time together at 6:00 pm with a potluck meal, during which our District Superintendent the Rev. Neil Leftwich will meet with our pastor and Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC). Then, at approximately 7:00pm, we will begin our Church Conference with all those present.

Church Conference (also known as Charge Conference) is a time for us to celebrate the ministries we have experienced over the last year, and look ahead to the coming year and set our sights on doing the work that God has called us to do.

We hope all of you will make plans to attend this Church Conference as it is the one time of year we get to celebrate where we've been and look ahead to where God is calling us to go. Watch for more information in the Sunday morning bulletins as well as our October newsletter as we prepare for Church Conference.

## Coming Soon: SSS !!! (Sidewalk Sunday School)

It's that time again: time to start planning for **Sidewalk Sunday School** at Faith United Methodist Church!

The folks involved with this ministry took a much-needed break during the summer months, but now it's time to gear up for the coming year. Our goal is to begin having SSS services starting sometime during the month of October. Ideally, we will begin the first Saturday in October, but that will also depend on the weather and the heat.

The success of this ministry is dependent on you – our volunteers who are able to make a commitment to come and help. Here are the various teams we need to staff:

**Truck Team** – arrives at 9:30 am to help set up the truck in the parking lot outside the church. If available, also helps break down the set-up after the service is over, around 11:30am – 12:00 noon.

**Food Preparation/Serving Team** – arrives at 9:30 am to begin preparing food for those attending. Also serves the food after the service ends, then cleans up afterward. Usually finishes by about 12:00 noon.

**Shepherd Team** – arrives between 9:30 and 10:00 am, greets children as they arrive and help with maintaining order and escorting children to the restrooms during the worship service.

Every member of these teams is so critical to the success of this ministry, and people can serve on more than one team. So in preparation for our October launch, Pastor Jody would like to meet with those volunteers involved in this ministry on **Thursday, September 22 at 7:00 pm** at the church.

If you are willing and able to help out with this ministry, please contact Pastor Jody so we know how many people to expect. The more

people we have volunteering, the less frequently each volunteer needs to work...so even if you THINK you'd like to be a part of this ministry, please come on September 22 so you can learn more about what it entails.

We truly hope you will prayerfully consider being involved with this very important ministry.

## *New Staffing Opportunities at Faith UMC*

Several months ago the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) recommended to the Faith UMC Church Council that we add three (3) new part time staff members at our church. These individuals will be primarily responsible for teaching children's Sunday School and providing Nursery Care during the worship service hour on Sunday mornings.

Our new **Sunday School Teacher** will be responsible for developing weekly Sunday School plans in cooperation with the pastor and teaching the children present during the worship service following the Children's Message. Our Sunday School teacher will be compensated at a rate of \$25 per week for providing this service.

Our new **Nursery Care Attendant** will be responsible for caring for infants and toddlers during the worship service time and will be compensated at a rate of \$15 per week.

Finally, we will also be hiring a **Sunday School/Nursery Assistant** who will be available to assist both the Sunday School teacher and the Nursery Care Attendant during the worship service time. This individual will also be compensated at a rate of \$15 per week.

If you are interested in applying for one or all of these positions, or if you know someone who might be interested in applying, please contact (or have them contact) the church office ASAP. We are hoping to get these positions filled as soon as possible.

## Journey to the Holy Land

Pastor Jody is working on putting together a Holy Land tour for late next Spring, and has partnered with her friend and colleague Rev. Dr. Vernon Meyer, who is a UCC pastor, an incredible biblical scholar, and a wonderful international tour guide. Over the years, Pastor Vernon has organized and led many theological tours around the world, including more than 20 in and around the Holy Land.

**The tentative plan is to depart from Phoenix on May 3 and return to Phoenix on May 12, 2017** – just in time for Mother's Day! The tour will include all of the important biblical sites, including the region in and around the Sea of Galilee, Cana, Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Masada, Jericho and more.

The cost (based on a minimum of 35 participants) is \$3677, double occupancy and is virtually all inclusive (a few meals are not included). There is also an option for a Pre-Excursion Extension to Jordan and Petra from May 1-4 for an extra \$646.

Both Pastor Jody and Pastor Vernon are hoping many of their friends, family members, and church family members will want to participate, so if you are interested in joining them on this journey, please contact Pastor Jody as soon as possible. We don't have a lot of time to put this all together, but if we can get commitments from enough people, we can move forward with planning the trip.

This is a great opportunity to participate in what might be a once-in-a-lifetime trip for many folks, and both Pastor Jody and Pastor Vernon are looking forward to making this a memorable trip for all. We hope you will join them!!



## Joshua Warner Attends ASIST Training-for-Trainers

In late July, I was given an opportunity to attend the ASIST Training-for-Trainers (T4T) course in Denver, Colorado. Although it was a great relief away from the summer heat, I spent over 70 hours reviewing training materials to lead ASIST workshops here in Arizona.

ASIST is an acronym for "Applies Suicide Intervention Skills Training." It is a suicide intervention model used when working with people at risk for suicide.



Suicide is at a 30 year high in the United States. Removing the taboo of suicide and suicidal ideations is an important task for the United Methodist Church. A recent UMNS article states that at least 25% of all Americans live with mental illness. Mental illness is even higher in our youth population, and suicides for teenagers have steadily increased to all-time highs. As caregivers there is much we can do to reduce the numbers of suicides and to make suicide-safer communities.

What should we do to address suicide in our community and church family? It's important to get the facts and information about how to help those at risk, to be aware of the symptoms, and to intervene with necessary using God's grace to guide our conversations. As God's children called to minister to those in the most difficult of circumstances, having these challenging conversations can be life-sustaining for those at risk.

On September 10, we will remember those who struggle with mental illness, suicidal ideations, and those who have had suicide touch their lives by honoring World Suicide Prevention Day. Let us continue to be bold in our conversations with others and reach out to those at risk with God's compassion and love.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>September 2016</b> 	<b>Birthdays:</b> 9/06 McKenna Wolf 9/12 Judy Goad 9/14 Shelly Hegeman  <b>Anniversaries:</b> 9/16 Bob and Carolyn MacAlpine 9/18 Bill and Dolores Pfaff	9/06 McKenna Wolf 9/12 Judy Goad 9/14 Shelly Hegeman  9/16 Bob and Carolyn MacAlpine 9/18 Bill and Dolores Pfaff	9/11 Mel Linberg 9/14 Norlene Bateman 9/24 Kris Dotto	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  UMM - Watkins Center	<b>3</b>  12:30 pm Roadrunners - K 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>4</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>5 Office Closed</b> <i>Labor Day</i>  6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4  5:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Study Group - Rm 1-2  7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2 6:00 pm Bird Club - K
<b>11</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>12 Office Closed</b>  6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm Scouts - K	<b>13</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4  6:30 pm Church Council - Rm 4	<b>14</b> 10:00 am Study Group - Rm 1-2  7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>15</b>  11:30 am Lunch Bunch - Fuddruckers	<b>16</b>  6:00 pm Movie Night: <i>Dead Poets Society - S</i>	<b>17</b> 8:00 am UMM Breakfast-K 11:00 am C O D A - Rm 1-2 2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>18</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	<b>19 Office Closed</b>  6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2	<b>20</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4  5:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	<b>21</b> 10:00 am Study Group - Rm 1-2  7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  2:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
<b>25</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 FSWBS - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>26 Office Closed</b>  6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm TOPS - Rm 1-2 6:30 pm Scouts - K	<b>27</b> 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4  7:00 pm Neighborhood Outreach - Rm 4	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Study Group - Rm 1-2  7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	