



Koinonia

Faith United Methodist Church

8640 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Phone: (602) 943-3465

From the **PASTOR**—

January 2018

Happy New Year!!

Well, friends, here we are: at the beginning of another new year! I don't know about you, but I often consider the new year as a time of new beginnings, a way of starting fresh, and making commitments to do things differently. And I understand I'm not alone: a lot of people I talk to say the same thing. They look to the new year as a way of starting over.

And why not? If the changing of the year on January 1 inspires us to do things differently, then let's use it to our advantage! Let's find ways of doing things a little differently, in our work lives, our personal lives, even in our church life.

In the spirit of making things new, you're going to see some new things happening at our church in 2018. At the end of January, we will have another group of NOMADs on our campus, who will be working to install new flooring in the offices in the Administration Building. We're also hoping they will have time to remove the carpet and refinish the concrete floor on the north end of the Koinonia Room. Our last group of NOMADs, who were with us just before Thanksgiving, did an awesome job of removing the carpet and installing the new wood-look floors in the two classrooms, the entrances to the restrooms, and finishing off the choir room, which involved rebuilding the



choir risers. They also fixed and/or replaced many of our outside lights, including the lighted sign at our parking lot entrance and the overhead light on the far west end of the Admin building. We are so grateful for the work they did...and we're looking forward to welcoming yet another group to our church campus.

Also at the end of January, the contractors who are doing the remodeling over at Richard E. Miller School will be removing the canopy over the sidewalks that surround the courtyard and in front of the entrance to our sanctuary. We need to do this for a variety of reasons, and we got a *smokin'* deal on the work: it's FREE! In return for letting them use church property to stage their materials and for parking for their workers, they are doing this and other projects at the church at no cost to us. We are grateful to Concord General Contracting for being good neighbors and working with us. As the canopy is being removed, we will be looking at new ways of replacing it, possibly with a canvas-type covering that will bring color to our campus. We will also start doing some other much-needed maintenance, such as replacing broken windows and doors. So keep an eye out as our church campus is transformed!

We are also revitalizing our Children's Ministry by hiring several people to provide nursery care and teach Sunday School during our worship time. We will also be adding a few

(Continued on page 2)

volunteers to fill in any gaps, so if you have an interest in working with children once or twice a month, let us know.

These are just a few of the exciting new things that will be happening in 2018! And you can be a part of them, by volunteering your time or by underwriting some of the work by

increasing your financial giving. Either way, we are looking forward to everyone contributing to new beginnings at Faith United Methodist Church.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Jody

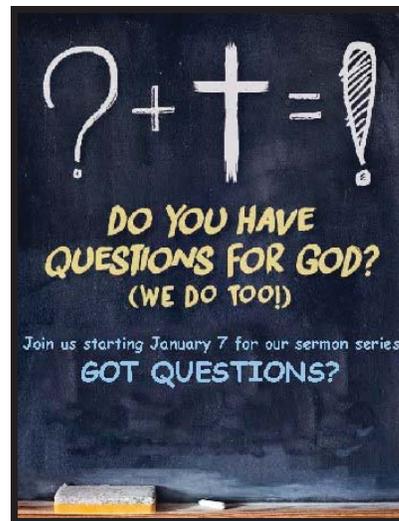


New Sermon Series: Got Questions?

Our first sermon series of the new year will be one that will be sure to please! Inspired by some hard questions that have literally come to us "out of the mouths of babes," we will be led on a journey into a life of asking questions related to our faith. On this journey, we will reflect upon who we are, where we have been, and where God is calling us to go, as individuals and as faith communities. In addition, we just might delve into some of the questions you might have if you could meet face to face with God. This is one series you won't want to miss...and invite your friends to come as well!

- ◆ January 7 Yes! We Do!
- ◆ January 14 Why Was Jesus Born Poor?
- ◆ January 21 Can God Change People's Minds?
- ◆ January 28 Does God Have A Purpose For Me?
- ◆ February 4 Questions, Questions, Questions
- ◆ February 11 Can God Help My Brother?

** On these two Sundays we will deal with one or more of the questions asked by members of our congregation.*



January Meetings @ FUMC

- ◆ Tues. 1/9 6:30 PM Church Council
- ◆ Sat. 1/20 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast
- ◆ Tues. 1/23 7 PM Neighborhood

January 2018 Liturgists

- Sunday 1/7 - Howard Moses
- 1/14 - Shane Taber
- 1/21 - Alfredo Corrales
- 1/28 - Esther Frank



Are you interested in joining the FUMC liturgist team?

To volunteer, please contact Mike German, FUMC office assistant.

Thinking Theologically with Pastor Jody

*"Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind."
1 Peter 3:8 (ESV)*

At our Christmas Eve service last month, I preached on "The Gift of the Child", and how Christ came to live among us as both human and divine to not only bring Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to all of humanity, but to bring Unity as well. I shared part of our experience in the Holy Land earlier this year and some of the things we learned about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. What I intended to convey was that, regardless of which "side" of the dispute you align yourself with, we all need to be concerned about the ways the Palestinian people are being treated by the government of Israel. For example:



- Many Palestinian families – innocent bystanders – are being forced out of their homes by the Israelis and being forced to flee to other lands or be confined to refugee camps in the territory set aside for the Palestinians;
- Those who have been allowed to remain on their land are not allowed to build on it or even put in the infrastructure they need in order to have their basic needs fulfilled, like electricity and water;
- The few Palestinian villages that remain are being encroached upon by Israeli settlements, which the international community has condemned. Still, the Israelis continue to build in spite of that;
- People – even young children, the innocents – have lost their lives in random attacks perpetrated by the Israeli police force;
- And finally, the Israeli government is in the process of building a wall between the Palestinian and Israeli territories, not to keep the Israelis out, but to keep the Palestinians in. Israelis are allowed to go through the checkpoints into Palestinian territories, but the Palestinians must have permission from the government – and therefore have good reason, like a job – to step outside the confines of the wall. And in some instances, Palestinian farms have been split by the wall, which means those Palestinians are unable to harvest their crops, which means part of their livelihood is being systematically taken away.

These are just a few of the examples of what is happening in the Holy Land today. And as I said in my message on Christmas Eve, God's people were never meant to be divided in this way.



"The world is too small for walls."



At the Holy Land Wall



"Justice: Make it happen."

God's people were meant to be united in Christ, and as God's people, we need to work to bring more unity into our world.

To be sure, the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is complicated, to say the least, and a solution to the situation is going to take a long time and a lot of negotiating...it already has. But as followers of Christ, we have a duty to do what we can to bring God's people together, maybe not in the Holy Land, but definitely in our own community.

One of the ways we can do that is by educating ourselves on the situations that divide us, including the conflict described above. When we went with our United Methodist Missionary guide into Palestinian territory last October, one of the things I learned was how little I know about the conflict in general, much less the specifics, some of which I've described above. I need to learn more about what's going on in the region, and I feel compelled to help others know and understand more as well.

For that reason, I am leading a workshop on this topic during our West District Day of Learning on February 17 at Dove of the Desert UMC. The workshop, called "Behind the Wall: A Firsthand Glimpse into the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict" is being offered twice – once in the morning and once in the afternoon – for those who would like to attend. If you would like to know more about this subject, I encourage you to register for the Day of Learning and choose one of my workshops. I promise, I'll make it worth your while.

Grace & Peace, *Pastor Jody*

P.S. If you weren't able to be with us on Christmas Eve and would like to watch the message that was delivered, you will find a link to it on our website, located at www.faithumcphoenix.org or you can go directly to our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/user/FaithUMCPhoenix.



"Tent of Nations"



At a Holy Land Farm



"Merry Christmas World, From Bethlehem Ghetto"

Chancel Choir and Handbells Ensemble REHEARSAL SCHEDULES

Choir Practice -> Wednesday night @ 7 PM in the choir room
-> Sundays @ 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary
Contact David Topping, Chancel Choir Director



Handbells Practice -> Sundays after Fellowship Time in Room 1-2
Contact Francine Martin, Handbells Ensemble Director

New Members are Always Welcome!

The Deacon's Dialogue



To my Faith Family:

It's January again! It's that time of the year when we set our New Year's Resolutions - goals we will have for the new year - things we can start now!

A recent article from NBC News cited IQuanti's top New Year's Resolutions based on Google searches near the end of last year:

- Get Healthy: 62,776,640 searches, a 13.77 percent increase over last year during the same time period, when it was searched 55,177,290 times.
- Get Organized: 33,230,420 searches, dipping by 7.41 percent compared to last year's tally of 35,888,700.
- Live Life to the Fullest: 18,970,210, spiking by 13.04 percent from last year, when it maxed at 16,782,030.
- Learn New Hobbies: 17,438,670 searches, up 4.72 percent from last year's total searches of 16,652,950.
- Spend Less/Save More: 15,905,290 searches, up 17.47 percent from 13,539,500 in 2016.
- Travel: 5,964,130 searches, down by 0.82 percent from 2015's 6,013,550,
- Read More: 4,746,560 searches, down 5.63 percent from last year's 5,029,790.

These of course aren't the only resolutions we can consider as we prepare for 2018. We can also look at our spiritual resolutions. Those might include

- Increase kindness
- Forgive others
- Forgive ourselves
- Being faithful in giving of our time, talent and treasure to our faith community
- Spending time in personal prayer and devotion

Another important spiritual resolution is to increase our prayer for others, to spend time in intentional intercessory prayer for our spiritual sisters and brothers and those in our community who need God's healing grace in their lives.

We have a unique opportunity at Faith UMC to intercede for others through our prayer lives. Many years ago, guided by members of our church, we began the prayer chain as a way for us to share each other's joys, successes, and struggles in our community.

During our courageous church series, we had an opportunity share in ways that we can come together as a community to be united in hope. One of the suggestions brought forth was the idea of intentionally spending time to pray with and for each other. Through the prayer email chain, we can live out this suggestion in our daily lives

The prayer emails that are sent out periodically throughout the week keep each other up to date on the needs of those at Faith and throughout our connection. We usually begin the week with a list of weekly prayers, a brief devotion and group prayer that I send out on Sunday evening. Throughout the week, I send 2 to 3 emails with updates that are important for us to have as we spend time in daily devotion. Prayer requests can be sent to either Pastor Jody or me.

At this time, we have 32 email addresses - 32 members of our community who have committed to including prayers of the people in their daily devotion. I would like to invite more to be part of this prayerful movement.

Please consider joining the prayer community at Faith. If you are interested, please provide your email address to me, Pastor Jody, or LaVonna Goudie. Please contact me at (JoshuaLwarner@gmail.com) or by text at 602-790-1154.

In Christ's service, *Pastor Josh*



Family Promise Returns to FUMC Sunday, January 21—28

Folks interested in volunteering to help host, prepare dinners, set-up for our guest families, launder bedding, etc. are encouraged to talk with Jane and Gary Kriege at 623-931-9970 or Carol Getting at 602-973-0865.

Faith Lunch Bunch News

by LaVonna Goudie

The Faith Lunch Bunch is a group that LOVES to go out to eat delicious food and enjoy a good fellowship together as well. Due to busy holiday schedules, the group took a break during December.

The Lunch Bunch will meet at 11:30 AM on Thursday, January 18th at Anzio's Italian Restaurant located at 12418 North 28th Drive, between Sweetwater and Cactus, east of North 29th Avenue.

Voted "Best of Phoenix" Anzio's Italian Restaurant is the place to go in the area for authentic Italian cuisine. So, let's start the new year out with a good crowd and some super Italian food. Hope to see y'all there!



Sunday After 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

This lively discussion group meets after the service during Fellowship Time on the second and third Sundays. In January, HOPE will meet on 1/14 and 1/21. So, please bring your coffee and snacks to Room 4 at 11:15 AM and join the thought-filled and lively HOPE conversation!

4SWBS = 4th Sunday Women's Bible Study



All Faith women are invited to join the monthly 4SW Bible Study discussion which will be held on January 28th in Room 4 from 11:15 AM. We will discuss a selected daily devotional, "Heal Me—NOW!" with questions from *The Upper Room* and also hear the scriptural focus, Psalm 62: 5—8, read in English, Spanish and Tamil.

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



On Wednesday mornings at 10 AM, a group of friendly folks from Faith UMC meets at the Caribou Coffee/Einstein Bagels shop located on the north side of Northern Avenue between 19th Avenue and the I-17 Freeway. All are welcome to

join us for our weekly faith-filled discussion. We usually end by about 11:30, and would love to have you join us for coffee/tea and theological conversation with the Pastor and friends.





West District 2018 Training Events

In January and February, the West District is offering two training events for both clergy and lay members.

The first is our **District Leadership Training**, which is designed for those who are currently serving or have been newly-elected to serve in certain leadership positions. The training sessions will include vital information for those serving on the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), Finance Committee, and Trustees. Since our entire Church Council serves as our Finance and Trustees Committees, it would be appropriate for everyone on the Church Council, new and continuing to attend either of those sessions.

The District Leadership Training is scheduled for Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 9:30-11:30am at Dove of the Desert UMC, located at 7201 W. Beardsley, Glendale. There is no charge for the training, and all three sessions are meeting concurrently.

To register online for this training, go to <https://dscumc.org/2018-admin-training> or check with Pastor Jody if you need assistance with registration.

The second event is our **District Day of Learning**, is scheduled for **Saturday, February 17 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM also at Dove of the Desert UMC**. This event is open to anyone who would like to attend. It will be a time to connect as the people of God, to learn and grow, and become better equipped to make disciples in the name of Jesus Christ. **The registration fee is \$15 if registered before February 9, or \$20 after and includes the cost of lunch**. There will also be FREE childcare and lunch for registered infants and children of all ages and abilities. Contact Carla at 602-798-8236 to register for childcare.

Participants may choose two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Lunch will be served in between. The topics being offered this year are:

- ◆ Behind the Wall: A Firsthand Glimpse into the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict*
- ◆ Caring for Your Congregation and Community (AM Only)
- ◆ Centering Prayer
- ◆ Church Leadership the Disney Way (AM Only)
- ◆ Generational Challenges in Collaborative Ministry
- ◆ It's All About the Soul
- ◆ Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry and Certified Lay Minister Programs (PM Only)
- ◆ For a Thousand Tongues (PM Only)

** This session is being led by Pastor Jody and will include photos taken during her recent Holy Land pilgrimage!*

A brief description of each session is available online on the Conference website at www.dscumc.org or you can check with Pastor Jody and she can also get you a copy of the descriptions. Free childcare is also available for those who pre-register.

If you would like to carpool to either of these training events, please contact the church office so arrangements can be made.

Won't you prayerfully consider attending one or both of these excellent training events?

THANKS TO YOU, THE 2017 CHRISTMAS FOOD BOX MISSION PROJECT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

Again through your efforts, this Christmas season we were able to provide 64 food boxes which were distributed to needy individuals and organizations here in Phoenix.

Forty food boxes were given to Wesley Community Center Family Christmas Program while the Phoenix Indian Medical Center received 10 boxes. Both Wesley and PIMC have programs where they distribute the food boxes to those in need. The remaining 14 boxes were given to local families in need, including some of our Sidewalk Sunday School families.

A special thanks to everyone who helped in a variety of ways to make the 2017 food box mission project a success including: taping the cardboard boxes together; sorting, packing and stacking the boxes; delivering the boxes; and/ or making financial donations toward the food box mission project. Also "thank you" to the several congregational members who took empty food boxes home and with family, friends and neighbors filled an additional 16 boxes. Thank you very much for your extra effort.



We greatly appreciated everyone's support of the 2017 Christmas food box mission project. This mission project wouldn't exist without you. We hope you enjoyed working on the project and that you will help again in 2018. Thank you!

With grateful hearts, Mike & Virginia FitzPatrick

Siete invitati!
(You're Invited!)

Lura Turner Homes for Adults with Developmental Disabilities invites everyone to our

8th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 27, 2018

Madison Baptist Church, 7202 North 12th Street, Phoenix

(Northwest corner of 12th Street & Rose Lane)

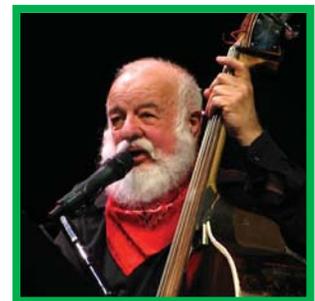
Dinner Seating Times: 4:00-5:30 PM and 6:00-7:30 PM

\$17.50 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under.

Tickets include dinner by *Personal Touch Catering* and sundaes by *Mary Coyle's Ice Cream*.

The evening will feature:

- ◆ **Igor Glenn and the Jazz Cowboys**
- ◆ Door prizes
- ◆ 50-50 Raffle
- ◆ Gifts for sale by Hidden Treasures Antiques and Collectibles
- ◆ Candy bouquets by S&L Creations



Reserve Tickets at 602-943-4789

Lura Turner Homes • 8640 N. 19th Avenue #14 • Phoenix, AZ 85021

Sidewalk Ministry News

During the month of January, Sidewalk Sunday School will be meeting on all Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 Noon — on 1/6, 1/13, 1/20 and on 1/27. Volunteers are needed in a variety of ways, with set-up beginning at 9:30 AM to assisting with activities once the kids and families arrive to lunch preparation and clean-up in the kitchen.

On December 16th, FUMC hosted an enthusiastic group of Sidewalk kids and their families for our annual Sidewalk Christmas Celebration! After



the Bible lesson, which focused on the beloved Christmas Story, the kids enjoyed making snowflake craft ornaments before selecting a special Christmas gift and stuffed animal to take home. Sharing lunch together in the Koinonia Room completed the



Christmas Celebration.

Remember, children of all ages are welcome at Sidewalk Sunday School. So, kids, join us on the Sidewalk Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM! Or, volunteers, come at 9:30 AM!

Faith UMC Prayer Chain

The prayer chain at FUMC is voluntary and all are encouraged to participate as personal needs and requests dictate. Please contact the Rev. Joshua Warner with your prayer requests by cell phone, 602-790-1154 or email, joshual-warner@gmail.com. Folks wanting be added to the prayer chain may also contact LaVonna Goudie, at plazgoudie@cox.net or the Faith UMC office, 602-943-3465.



Deadline for the February 2018 issue of the *Koinonia* will be Thursday, January 25th. Please submit all articles, information, and photos to Shane Taber, Editor. (sctaber56@gmail.com)

UMCOR UPDATE—Hurricane Disaster Relief & Recovery Grants

- *Harvey—\$2.3 million (Texas & Louisiana)*
- *Irma—\$1 million (Florida)*
- *Maria—\$3.8 million (Puerto Rico)*

Visit umcor.org for more information (As of 12/4/17)

Connecting with Faith UMC

Website:

faithumcphoenix.org

Videos of Sunday sermons:

faithumcphoenix.org/sermon-videos/

On Facebook

facebook.com/FaithUMCPhoenix

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.





Happily announcing the birth of
Thomas Hawk Mercer
 on Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 8:36 AM
 8 lbs 15 ounces, 22 inches

Very Proud Parents: Jeneferr Olme & Cory Mercer
 Adoring Sisters: Emily & Elizabeth

We will be celebrating Baby Tommy's birth on
 Sunday, January 14th during Coffee Chat!



*Very Special Visitors Attend
 New Year's Eve Service at
 Faith UMC on December 31st
 —> The Franco Family!*



Maria Franco with
 daughters Diamond, Peria
 & Serenity



With Eunice &
 Howard Moses

**2017 Food Box Mission
 Project Assembly Day**



**Xmas Worship
 @ Faith UMC**



**FUMC White Elephant
 Christmas Gift Exchange Party**



Thank you to
 the Arthur/
 Rajendran
 families for
 hosting a
 great party!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JANUARY 2018	1 Office Closed 	2 Office Closed 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	3 10:00 am Study Group - Caribou Coffee 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	4	5	6 Epiphany 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 12:30 pm Roadrunners Potluck - K 1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2 2:00 pm Jerry Burton Memorial - S
	7 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	8 Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4	9 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:30 pm Church Council - Rm 4	10 10:00 am Study Group - Caribou Coffee 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	11	12
14 Human Relations Day 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat: Mercer celebration - K 11:00 am Handbells - Rm 1-2 11:15 am HOPE - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	15 Office Closed Martin Luther King Day 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4	16 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4 6:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	17 10:00 am Study Group - Caribou Coffee 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	18 11:30 am Lunch Bunch - Anzio's Italian Restaurant	19	20 8:00 am UMM Breakfast-K 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
21 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	22 Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4	23 10:00 am Quilters - K 7:00 pm Neighborhood Outreach - Rm 6-7	24 10:00 am Study Group - Caribou Coffee 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	25	26	27 10:00 am Sidewalk SS 1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 1-2
January 21 4:00 pm through January 28, 8:00 am - Family Promise						
28 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	29 Office Closed 6:00 pm Quilters - Rm 4	30 9:00 am Zippers - Rm 1-2 10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	31 10:00 am Study Group - Caribou Coffee 7:30 pm Choir Practice-CR	Birthdays: 1/3 Erika Topping 1/5 Marvin Clawson 1/5 Leila Wilhelm 1/8 Bill Pfaff 1/11 Liz Parry 1/13 Dolores Pfaff	1/14 Michael Altomare 1/17 Alex Franco 1/18 Diamond Franco 1/20 Carla Moses-Moreno 1/29 Carol Getting 1/29 Victoria Bittinger	1/30 Sandy Cook Anniversaries 1/23 Richard & Esther Frank 1/28 Sam Arthur & Synthia Rajendran
January 29 through February 15 - NOMADS						

Open hearts

Open minds

Open doors

The People of the United Methodist Church



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

• Therefore, if anyone is in Christ,
| the new creation has come: The
• old has gone, the new is here!
| 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV



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.

KOINONIA

Monthly Newsletter from
Faith United Methodist Church

8640 North 19th Avenue
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Jody Topping Pastor
Joshua Warner Deacon
Michael German Secretary
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David Topping Choir Director
Virginia FitzPatrick Treasurer
Jane Kriege Financial Secretary
Michael German Media Tech
David Topping Webmaster
Shane Taber Newsletter Editor

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