



# Koinonia

## *Faith United Methodist Church*

8640 North 19th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Phone: (602) 943-3465

### *From the* **PASTOR**

June 2018

By now you probably know that David and I will be leaving Faith United Methodist Church on June 30, 2018. If this is the first time you're hearing this news, that probably means you need to update your personal information (address, email address, etc.) with Mike German in the church office.



Pastor Jody Topping

On Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, a letter from our District Superintendent, the Rev. Neil Leftwich, was sent by email (to those who have given us their email address) and "snail mail" (to those for whom we only had a physical address) announcing that our Bishop, the Rev. Bob Hoshibata intends to appoint me as the Lead Pastor at Song of Life UMC in Queen Creek, AZ effective July 1. That same letter was read to the congregation on May 20<sup>th</sup> – Pentecost Sunday – during worship, after which I offered a few words about this change...the video of which is on our church website.

While changes like this are hard, those of you who have been attending Faith UMC (or any other UMC, for that matter) understand that it's really quite normal. In the United Methodist Church, we operate under an appointment system, which means pastors are appointed (rather than "called") by the Bishop to serve a particular church. Appointments are generally made for one year at a time, so every

year there's always a possibility that pastors will be asked to serve new churches, and churches will be asked to welcome new pastors. Sometimes pastors will serve the same church for only a few years or for many, many years...it depends on what the different churches need, and what gifts the pastors have to offer.

On July 1, 2014 when I began my appointment at Faith UMC, you welcomed me and David with loving, open arms. It was my first appointment as a Provisional Elder, and you helped me grow into my pastoral role by giving me the flexibility to try to new things and bring back old ones that had been tried before. Together, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we accomplished a lot, including some much-needed improvements to the church campus, trying out different worship formats, and identifying new ways of being in ministry with the community around the church. Together we embarked on new ways of connecting with people, especially through the "19North" and "How to Reach New People" Initiatives. Over the last four years we welcomed a lot of new members, our worship attendance increased, and our children's ministry was reinstated. God has definitely been at work at Faith United Methodist Church!!

But that's not all! There are many things we had planned to do that we know you will

*(Continued on page 2)*

want to continue, like replacing the flooring in the Sanctuary (two full teams of NOMADs are already scheduled to be at Faith at the beginning of 2019!), putting in some new shade coverings around the courtyard, continuing to build the children's ministry, and continuing to reach out to new people. We have great hope for the future of Faith UMC, and we know that your new pastor, the Rev. Michael Patzloff, will lead you into that future with enthusiasm and love.

Since my new appointment at Song of Life doesn't begin until Sunday, July 1, I continue

to be your pastor through the end of June. David will also continue to lead the choir until the end of June. I will preach my last sermon at Faith UMC on Sunday, June 10, but will be in church, leading worship, on June 24<sup>th</sup>, during which the Rev. Gary Kriege will deliver the message.

Please keep us in your prayers as we make this transition...and we will do the same for all of you.

Grace & Peace,

*Pastor Jody*

## ***Thinking Theologically with Pastor Jody***

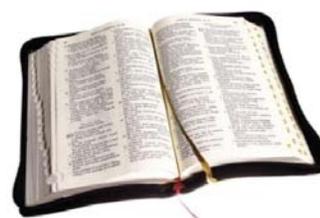
On Sunday, May 20, after celebrating Pentecost during worship, David and I went out to the Patio Garden to take a picture that I could send to the Conference Office for the official announcement of my new appointment. As we were trying to figure out the right angle for the picture in front of the beautiful bougainvillea, all of a sudden, the wind picked up, blowing my hair into my face! As we waited for the wind to die down, it occurred to me how almost surreptitiously the wind begins to blow, and how quickly it can go from a gentle breeze to a strong gust that nearly knocks one over.

And as I pondered that, I was reminded of the way the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers that first Pentecost Day. As the disciples gathered together in a room, fearful because of what had happened to Jesus, the Holy Spirit came in like a mighty wind, howling and filling the room. I imagine those disciples and other followers were terrified – I know I would have been – and they probably didn't understand that the wind they felt was actually the breath of God's Spirit.

Throughout my ministry I've experienced the breath of God's Spirit, and what I've discovered is it isn't always the same. Sometimes the Spirit is like a gentle breeze, nudging us in a particular direction while soothing us with the coolness of the Holy Spirit's presence. But sometimes the Spirit is like a mighty gust of wind, pushing us along, making sure we are going in the direction the Spirit intends for us. I think that's what happened in the upper room that day: the Holy Spirit came upon them like a mighty wind and pushed them toward a commitment to Christ.

**"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit."**

(Acts 2:1-4a ESV)



*(Continued on page 3)*

In just a few short weeks, David and I will be pushed by the Spirit in the direction of Queen Creek, where I will serve as Lead Pastor at Song of Life United Methodist Church. Like those early believers, we are being nudged by the Spirit to leave our current life behind and embark on something new: a new church with new people and new challenges...another new adventure. And while leaving what has become our church family at Faith will be difficult, we're excited about the new possibilities that will undoubtedly be present in the months and years to come. We know that God is at work as we transition from Faith to Song of Life, and as your new pastor, the Rev. Michael Patzloff, his husband, John Lafever, and their family transition from Las Vegas to Phoenix. We know that Pastor Michael is just as excited about coming to Faith UMC as David and I were four years ago, so we know the Spirit is at work in this transition, and we trust the Spirit will be with us all, every step of the way.

God bless,

*Pastor Jody*

### *June 2018 Liturgists*

- Sunday 6/3 Shane Taber
- 6/10 Virginia FitzPatrick
- 6/17 Carolyn MacAlpine
- 6/24 Joshua Warner



LaVonna Goudie

Are you interested in joining the FUMC Liturgist Team?

To volunteer, please contact Mike German, FUMC secretary/media tech.



Coffee with the Pastor will resume after a short summer break. Look for the next mid-week morning bible study soon with Pastor Michael once he's settled in at Faith UMC.



### 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 Martyn, Handbells Ensemble Director

*New Members are Always Welcome!*



Because of Pastor Jody's appointment change, she has had to "rework" the preaching schedule for the month of June. She will finish the current series, Bad Boys and Girls of the Bible, on the first Sunday in June and will deliver her last sermon at Faith UMC on Sunday, June 10. The rest of the June schedule is as follows:

- June 3: Bad Boys & Girls of the Bible: The Woman Caught in Adultery (and her Unnamed Partner)
- June 10: Over the Rainbow (Pastor Jody's farewell sermon)
- June 17: Father's Day and Annual Conference Sunday – Max McQueen, Executive Director at Lura Turner Homes, will deliver the message
- June 24: The Rev. Gary Kriege will deliver the message (Pastor Jody's last Sunday at Faith UMC)

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## *Transitions: Change is Hard*

On July 1, 2018 many of the churches in the Desert Southwest Conference – actually throughout the entire United Methodist Connection – will experience a transition as they have said goodbye to their former pastors and welcome new ones into the life of their church. This year, Faith UMC is among those going through such a transition, and while we know change is hard, it can also be good.

Those of you who have been United Methodists know that changing pastors is part of our denomination's standard operating procedure. But for those who are experiencing this for the first time, here are a few thoughts that will help make this transition a little easier:

- ◆ First, remember **I am your pastor until June 30, 2018**. As I mentioned during my remarks on May 20 when the announcement of my departure was made, I will do my very best to respond to any and all pastoral needs until my appointment at Faith UMC ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. So please, if you have any pastoral concerns, please call on me and I'll do my best to be there.
- ◆ Second, also remember that **my departure does not affect the Rev. Joshua Warn-**

**er's ministry at Faith UMC**. Pastor Joshua will continue to serve as a quarter-time Deacon at Faith UMC as long as the Church Council (based on the Staff Parish Relations Committee's recommendation) feels it is appropriate for him to do so. Joshua will also continue to provide pastoral care and support, including leading the Grief Processing group on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

- ◆ Third, once we say goodbye to each other, **I will not return to Faith for pastoral purposes or functions**. You will need time to get to know Pastor Michael Patzloff so you will appreciate the many gifts for ministry that he will be sharing with you, and it will be important for you to do that without any distractions whatsoever.
- ◆ And finally, please know I understand that for some of you, **change is hard**. It is for me, too. David and I have developed strong friendships with so many of you, and it will be hard for us to say goodbye. But change can also be a very positive thing. I know Pastor Michael will bring new ideas and new

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excitement to Faith UMC come July 1<sup>st</sup>. His energy will bring new vibrancy to your ministry, and I fully expect great things will happen because of his Spirit-filled leadership.

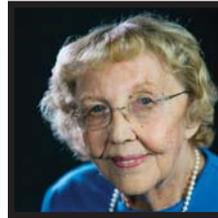
I hope these "tips" are of value to you as we make this transition together. You will continue to be in my prayers even after July 1, even though I know you are in good hands. Not only is God present throughout this transition, but



Holding Baby  
Thomas Mercer

God is also with Pastor Michael as he prepares to be your spiritual leader in the months and years to come. May God bless us all as we navigate this change together.

Grace & Peace,  
*Pastor Jody*



## Zippers NEWS

By Olie Ball

We made 130 lap robes this year. They will be delivered to Hospice of the Valley and Indian Hospital. Thanks to Sandy Cook for sewing a few.

Any contributions of cotton or flannel material for backing the lap robes is greatly appreciated. As a reminder, the Zippers outreach ministry group will not be sewing during the summer months. We will resume meeting once the weather cools in the fall. New members are always welcome and a blessing!



## Lura Turner Homes *UPDATE*

Faithful friends, we think we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel! After nearly four years, Lura Turner Homes was *finally* issued a Certificate of Occupancy for their operations in the FUMC's North Education Wing. Now, the final step of the process is for the Department of Economic Security to do their inspections and issue the necessary permits/certifications so LTH can be fully operational on our church campus. Executive Director Max McQueen is hoping this will happen very soon, if it hasn't already!



We look forward to having Lura Turner Homes and their clients on our church campus! Please welcome them next time you see them!

## Worship & Fellowship Time @ Faith UMC in June



Children's Message



Celebrating birthdays!

Suneela Amirineni with kids, Deepshika & Purvaj & her mother, Prasanna

Good friends, Helen Martin and Gary Kriege

## *The Deacon's Dialogue*

Faith Friends:

As you know, we are at a point of transition as we say good-bye to Pastor Jody and David and hello to Pastor Michael, his husband John and their family. These transitions will take place at the beginning of the next appointment year, July 1st.

While this news has come as a big surprise to all of us, I understand and appreciate the role that itinerancy plays in the ways that we do ministry in the United Methodist Church. While I know of pastors who have served congregations for many years, I also have clergy colleagues who served for a short period of time. I

trust that each decision is made with attention to the diverse gifts and graces of our clergy and God's Holy Spirit that is always present when these decisions are made.

Pastor Jody was present with me during the last years of my preparation into ministry and has guided me as I grow into my role as a clergy colleague in our conference. She continued the great work of Pastor Judy who, working with our SPRC, welcomed me as an intern into our church in 2013.

Pastor Jody has also done some great things in respect to the way we worship, do ministry and take care of the needs of our church. I am thankful not only for her guidance but her example as a clergy colleague and friend.

I also know that Pastor Michael also has some amazing gifts and graces. I believe that he too is being appointed for his unique talents and will share those with us as he leads us into important ministries as we fulfill our calling to be a courageous church, loving like Jesus, acting for justice and united in hope.

As Pastor Jody mentioned, I will continue to serve as your quarter-time minister of pastoral care, leading our grief ministry and providing pastoral support through my collaboration with Pastor Michael. I will also continue as a children's high-needs case manager with La Frontera/EMPACT.

I pray that as we embark on this next chapter at Faith UMC, that we remember the DNA of Faith which has ALWAYS been a community of people caring for people.

I also pray for God's spirit to move in and through us as we embrace what lies ahead.



**Pastor Joshua Warner**



In Christ's service,

*Pastor Joshua*

Rev. Joshua L Warner, M.Ed. M.Div.

Cell # 602-790-1154



## ***Greetings From***

### ***Pastor Michael Patzloff***

***"If it excites you and scares you at the same time,  
it probably means you should do it!"***

There are many ways one could describe the feeling of change. Change is necessary for life to thrive but also contains fear at its heart. If there is anything constant about life it is change. I invite us to embrace the feelings that come along with a pastoral change in the life of a church; the comfort of what has been and the fear and anxiety of what might be. As disciples of the living Christ, we are called to step out of that which is comfortable into a world that has a multitude of possibilities. May the One who is the Giver of Life help us to live up to the name of our community: Faith!

To help with the change of pastoral leadership at Faith I will attempt to share who I am, realizing there is much to discover about one another.

I was raised in the Imperial Valley located in the desert of southern California. Holtville is a mere 45 miles west of Yuma, AZ. I spent many summers visiting my aunt and uncle in Tempe and have family in the Phoenix area. I love the desert. In what some see as a dead, life-less place, I find life.

I attended Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, Nebraska. My undergraduate degree is a BS in Business Administration and a minor in Philosophy. I went to seminary immediately after and graduated from Southern Methodist University - Perkins School of Theology with my Master of Divinity degree. I was ordained a deacon and elder in the Nebraska Annual Conference (now the Great Plains Conference) and have served seven churches since 1994. In 2014, I transferred to the Desert Southwest Conference where my most recent appointment was University UMC in Las Vegas. This past year I took a voluntary family leave and taught at the University of Nevada - Las Vegas.

My family is everything to me. I have a husband, John Lafever, who has been my cohort and partner in life for the past 10 years. We have two children, our sons Elias, who is 19 and will be moving to Phoenix and Oliver, who is 14 and attends a school in Utah. Both Elias and Oliver came through the foster care system and we would not be complete without them.

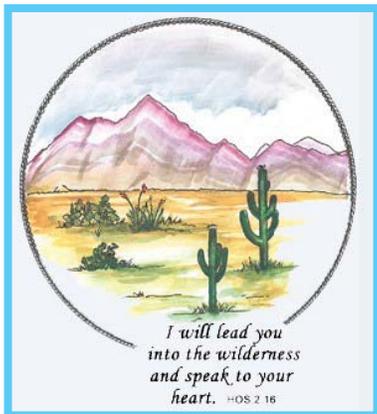
We also have four four-legged children (some people call them dogs). They are as much a part of the family as anyone. The saying is true: we work so they remain in the lifestyle of which they have come accustomed. Needless to say, they are spoiled.



**The Rev. Michael Patzloff &  
John Lafever**

*(Continued on page 8)*

The chairperson of your SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) asked a question during my introduction which I had never been asked before by a parishioner...why am I a United Methodist. The core beliefs of the UMC speak to who I am and who I think God has called us to be...we live in the gray and question everything. We are not a "black-and-white" thinking church. As Faith UM proudly states, "we take the Bible seriously, not literally." While sacred writings are the foundation of our faith, we use tradition, reason, and experience to approach those writings. Freedom comes from seeking the truth and that truth is found in groping, searching, and digging in the gray. I believe it is in the struggle that we find the Divine.



On the wall of the sanctuary of the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, you will find the quote: "The Desert will lead you to your heart...where I will speak." The desert is where I received my calling and it is to the desert I have returned. I am excited to see where the Spirit takes us.

May the One who Was, and Is, and Always Shall Be bless you until we meet face to face.

Peace,  
*Pastor Michael*

**Sidewalk Sunday School Season Ends with...Water Play!!**

Our Sidewalk Sunday School season ended on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup> with a water play day in the courtyard at Faith. The children who attended, including several from our Samoan congregation who have been so faithful in attending Sidewalk over the last few years, had a wonderful time splashing in pools and sliding down the Slip-n-Slide!!

We ended our time together with lots and lots of pizza!! A good time was had by all! Thank you to all the FUMC volunteers who helped prepare lunches, played with the kids and helped with the set-up and take-down during this past SSS season. What an awesome team!!



Filling the Pool



In the Turtle Pool



Serving Pizza



Cool in the Pool!



**Thank You from the FitzPatricks**

*Mike and I would like to thank all of you for your expressions of sympathy for our family during this time. Your cards, kind words, hugs, and prayers have helped to sustain us as we mourn the loss of our son Scott.*

*- Virginia FitzPatrick*



M. Scott FitzPatrick 1970—2018



### Congratulations, Mark and Dan!

On May 20th during fellowship time, Mark Rohrkemper and Dan Coleman shared cake and ice cream with their Faith UMC family in celebration of their 5th wedding anniversary.

## 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](mailto:joshuaL-warner@gmail.com). Folks wanting be added to the prayer chain may also contact LaVonna Goudie, at [plazgoudie@cox.net](mailto:plazgoudie@cox.net) or the Faith UMC office, 602-943-3465.



### FUMC Member Terry Goekler Shares This Concern:

*"Can You Hear Me?"  
Don't Say Yes!*

Cyber criminals are increasingly using robodial phone calls to scam unsuspecting victims. Scammers ask questions to generate a "yes" response and record your "authorization," which is used to grant charges on other products and services. The city of Phoenix's Information Security and Privacy Office reminds you to simply hand up on callers you do not know and never provide any personal information. Learn more at [Consumer.ftc.gov](http://Consumer.ftc.gov) and search for "robocalls." (From the PHX AT YOUR SERVICE May 2018 insert)

**Deadline for the  
July 2018  
issue of the *Koinonia* will be  
Monday, June 25th.  
Please submit all articles,  
information, and photos to  
Shane Taber, Editor.  
([sctaber56@gmail.com](mailto:sctaber56@gmail.com))**

### 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.



### 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)



## June Meetings @ Faith UMC

- ◆ Tues. 6/5, 6/19 6 PM Grief Processing
- ◆ Tues. 6/12 6:30 PM Church Council
- ◆ Sat. 6/16 8 AM UM Men's Breakfast

**Volunteers are Needed to Distribute Water Bottles at the FUMC Table at the *Royal Palm 4th of July Festival and Parade* from 7 AM to 9 AM. Set-up begins at 6 AM. Interested? Please see Shane Taber or leave a message at 623-910-1619. Thanks!**



Jane Kriege at 2017 Royal Palm 4th of July Festival

### Faith Lunch Bunch News

By LaVonna Goudie

Do YOU like to EAT and share fellowship together? Then, come join the monthly lunch outing with the Faith Lunch Bunch! We get together on the third Thursday of each month for lunch.

In May, seven hungry and faith-filled folks met at Abacus Inn on West Thunderbird Avenue for a delicious Chinese lunch.

Please join in the fun with us on June 21st at 11:30 AM at Carlos O'Brien's Mexican Restaurant located at 1133 East Northern Avenue, Phoenix. The menu features a wide variety of "Arizona Mexican" dishes. We welcome all for food, fun and fellowship. And if you have a June birthday, we'll be sure to sing "Happy Birthday" to you!



### Sunday After Service Discussions

Looking for opportunities to dig a little deeper after Pastor Jody's sermons? Please freely join one or both of these 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 June, HOPE will meet on 6/10 and 6/17. 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**



The 4th Sunday Women's Bible Study will take a break during June as we will be celebrating the ministries of Pastor Jody Topping and Chancel Choir Director David Topping during the fellowship time on Sunday, June 24.

We plan to meet next on Sunday, July 22, 2018 from 11:15 AM in Room 4.

**New members are always welcome!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JUNE 2018</b>		<b>Birthdays:</b> 6/03 Janet Darby      6/07 Cheri Bittinger 6/09 Becky Magata    6/14 Howard Moses    6/20 Connie Hegeman 6/23 Paul Heubel      6/28 Vern Goekler <b>Anniversaries:</b> 6/03 LaVonna & Paul Goudie 6/12 Jane & Gary Kriege      6/24 Virginia & Mike FitzPatrick			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Scott FitzPatrick Celebration of Life  1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 4
<b>3</b> 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K  1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>4 Office Closed</b>	<b>5</b>  10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4  6:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 4  6:00 pm Bird Club - K
<b>10</b> 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:15 am HOPE - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>11 Office Closed</b>	<b>12</b>  10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Flag Day</b> 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:00 am UMM Breakfast-K  1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 4 2:00 pm Eleanor Heath Farewell Reception Fellowship Square
<b>17 Fathers' Day</b> 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Coffee Chat - K 11:15 am HOPE - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>18 Office Closed</b>	<b>19</b>  10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4  6:00 pm Grief Group - Lib	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  11:30 am Lunch Bunch - Carlos O'Brien's	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 4
<b>24</b> 8:30 am Choir-Sanctuary 9:30 am Worship-Sanctuary 10:45 am Topping Farewell - K 11:15 am 4SWBS - Rm 4 1:00 pm Samoan Worship	<b>25 Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b>  10:00 am Quilters - Rm 4	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  1:00 pm Recovery-Rm 4

*Open hearts*

*Open minds*

*Open doors*

**The People of the  
United Methodist Church**



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

For I know the plans I have for you,  
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you  
and not to harm you, plans to give you  
hope and a future.

**Jeremiah 29:11**



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  
Phoenix, AZ 85021

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**Robert T. Hoshibata** Resident Bishop

**Neil Leftwich** District Superintendent

**Jody Topping** Pastor

**Joshua Warner** Deacon

**Michael German** Secretary

**Francine Martyn** Organist/ Handbell Director

**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.*