

The Vision

Volume 17, Issue 2

“For the VISION is for the days yet to come.” *Daniel 10:14*

February 2024

Living a Legacy of Love: Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday By Rev. Ann Lyter

AS WE APPROACH the month of February, we find ourselves in a unique convergence of two significant days on the calendar: Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday. While they may seem unrelated at first glance, these two occasions provide us with a profound opportunity to reflect on love, repentance, and the legacy we are building in our lives.

The Intersection of Love and Repentance

I remember fondly how as a kid, our elementary school classroom was decorated with hearts and paper doilies, and we gave Valentines to every classmate with incredibly cheesy sentiments like, a bear saying, “I’d be *beary* happy if you’d be mine!” Over time, Valentine’s Day became more about romance and celebrating the relationships that bring meaning to our lives. However, this year, Valentine's Day shares the date with Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday, in contrast, marks a time of introspection and repentance. We receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our mortality and the need to turn back to God. It's a day when we acknowledge our imperfections and seek forgiveness and spiritual renewal and marks the start of Lent, a time for introspection and spiritual growth in preparation for Easter.

The juxtaposition of these two days invites us to consider the intersection of love and repentance in our faith journey.

Embracing Lent as a Season of Reflection

Let us use this Lent to reflect on our relationship with God. Do we love God with all of who we are, or as Luke says it, “with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, with all your mind?” Or are there times when, like Peter, we lose our faith and sink into the water, or deny Jesus, or react in anger and take

a sword to someone, rather than love them as ourselves? Are there areas in our lives where we need to turn back to Him? Are there ways we can deepen our faith and commitment to living out His love in the world?

Love as Stewardship

Stewardship is a concept deeply rooted in our faith. It encompasses more than just financial giving; it involves the responsible and loving management of all the blessings God has entrusted to us. This includes our time, talents, and resources. On Valentine's Day, we often express love through gifts and gestures, but what if we also viewed love as a form of stewardship? Loving God is the greatest commandment, said Jesus, but the second is like it, “love your neighbor as yourself.” Love again.

Loving others is a way of sharing God's love with the world. It's a demonstration of our faith in action. Acts of kindness, compassion, and service are all expressions of love that can be a part of our legacy. As we celebrate Valentine's Day, let us challenge ourselves to extend love beyond our immediate circles and into our community. Consider reaching out to neighbors, volunteering, or simply offering a listening ear to someone in need.

Join Us on the Journey

As a day celebrating love, and a day acknowledging our need for God’s love converge, let us remember both as we enter into Lent on February 14th. I hope you will join us for one of our two Ash Wednesday services to receive ashes, and commit ourselves to a season of spiritual growth. Engage in acts of love and kindness within and outside our congregation, knowing that these actions are part of your legacy as a faithful servant of God.

May this February be a month of deeper connections, renewed faith, and a legacy of love that shines brightly in our lives and community.



Lent and Easter Worship Series

THIS LENT, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way—offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agapē love.

As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song. And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. We affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows. We will learn that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We celebrate the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes.

This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people—in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls. We will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way.

There are several pieces to this journey:

Daily Devotional Cards—Beginning with Ash Wednesday and extending into April, there are cards for each day. Each card includes a centering practice for each week, a question or questions to think about, and a prayer.

Lenten Devotional Booklet—These booklets include poetry, scripture, commentary, artwork, and reflection for each week in Lent and two weeks in Easter.

Wednesday Online Meditation—Our Wednesday meditation will also be connected with Peter's journey as we share in a *Visio Divina* Bible Study. *Visio Divina*, Latin for "divine seeing," is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. We will use images created for this worship series and inspired by Peter's story.

Worship—The heart of our Wandering Heart worship series, we begin with Ash Wednesday.

- 02/14 "Tune My Heart" Psalm 51:1-17
- 02/18 "Jesus sought me" Luke 5:1-11
- 02/25 "Rescue me from danger" Mt 14:22-33
- 03/03 "Praise the mount" Mt 16:13-20
- 03/10 "I'm fixed upon it" Mt 16:21-23
- 03/17 "Teach me" Mt 18:15-22
- 03/24 Palm Sunday "Songs of loudest praise" John 12:12-16
- 03/28 Maundy Thursday—Stations of Peter: "Streams of mercy," and "Prone to leave the God I love" John 13 and 18
- 03/31 "And I hope" Luke 24:1-12
- 04/14* "Here's my heart" John 21:1-19

Lenten Mission Project—Our project will be in support of Olive Tree Preschool located here at VRUMC. More details to follow.

*One week after the April 7th Homecoming, see p. 4 for more details.

ROBERT MACNEIL, the former anchor of PBS NewsHour, introduced the story of his own grandson, Nick, who has Autism, in a special series called "Autism Now." Families with children with Autism experience sacrifices that go beyond imagination, involving not only parents but also other family members. Nick's mother, MacNeil's daughter, received the diagnosis of Autism for Nick when he was 16 months old. Since then, she has dedicated almost all her time and energy to Nick. After work, Nick's father, Dave, takes him out to play for an hour or two, riding the bus back home. Children with autism tend to engage in such repetitive behaviors.

The scene of Robert MacNeil talking with his 10-year-old granddaughter, Nick's sister, is still vivid in my eyes from a PBS series I watched about ten years ago. The grandfather asks his granddaughter, "How do you think it would have been if Nick didn't exist?"

She responds, "It costs too much money because of Nick. A lot of money goes into things like vitamins and doctor appointments for Nick." The 10-year-old speaks articulately, saying, "It's so unfair. So many unexpected things happen at home. That's why it's so difficult."

The 10-year-old expresses the challenges, unfairness, and unease she faces due to having a sibling with Autism. However, I was able to feel compassion, love, and sacrifice for her brother in her words and expressions. Sacrificing for someone, sharing in their pain and suffering, and embracing that pain as your own — this is love. It epitomizes the greatest love, as articulated in John 15:13, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends."

I cannot forget the story of a family that appeared on The Oprah Winfrey Show. The family, consisting only of three daughters, went camping. The father set up and organized the tent and then went fishing. The three daughters were playing inside the SUV parked in front of the tent. The mother was sitting next to the tent when suddenly the SUV started moving. The car was parked on a slightly sloped area, and it turned out the handbrake was not engaged. At the end of the slope, there was a flowing river.



The mother instinctively tried to get up and stop the car but couldn't. The youngest was two years old, and all the children were quite helpless. Panicking inside the car, they didn't know what to do. The mother instinctively stood in front of the car, trying to slow it down with her arms. However, the car's speed

increased, and the mother, strained with all her strength, was pulled under the car. Fortunately, the car hit a small tree just before falling into the river. She was taken to the hospital with severe spinal injuries, and after numerous surgeries, she could barely sit in a wheelchair.

The daughters handle almost all the tasks at home. Dad only takes care of the most challenging ones when he comes home from work. They don't complain, seemingly unaware of the difficulties. Oprah Winfrey asked the youngest child, a 6-year-old, about her mother. She responds, 'Mom tried to die for me. Mom saved me. That's why I love Mom.'

Jesus died for us, shedding his blood on the cross when there was no other option. That's how much he loves us. So, when I think of Jesus, I cannot help but love Him.

2024 STEWARDSHIP & PLEDGE CARDS



ONE WAY that we live our legacy is through our covenant with the church: our promise to support Velda Rose UMC with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Financial pledges are an important part of our promise and help the church set the budget and plan programs.

Reasons why people pledge:

- ⇒ “This is my church home and I promised to support it.”
- ⇒ “Pledging gives [the leadership] an idea of how much they have to work with so they can plan ministry.”
- ⇒ “Donations are tax deductible.”
- ⇒ “I can only pledge a little, but it’s my promise to God and my relationship with God is important to me.”
- ⇒ “I know if my circumstances change, I can change my pledge, but this is my intention right now.”

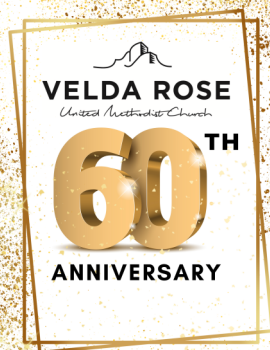
Pledge cards will be in the mail shortly and should be returned by February 11, or as soon thereafter as possible. If you don’t get a card in the mail, you can pick one up in the church office or at worship on 2/11/2024.

Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 14, 2024 is Ash Wednesday. There are two opportunities to observe Ash Wednesday at Velda Rose UMC.

12 Noon - 1 pm—The Sanctuary will be open for Meditation and Imposition of Ashes.

5:30 pm—Wandering Heart: “Tune my Heart”



**HOMECOMING
SUNDAY**
with
**HYMN SING
& POTLUCK**
April 7 at 9:30 am

Velda Rose UMC will celebrate our 60th Anniversary with Homecoming Sunday. Worship will be a Hymn Sing and Communion. Potluck to follow.

The Hymn Sing will be a countdown of VRUMC favorite hymns, as voted on by you! We will start the voting in February to get to the list of hymns narrowed down with final voting in March. Ballots and explanations will be provided in worship so be sure to attend or tune in!

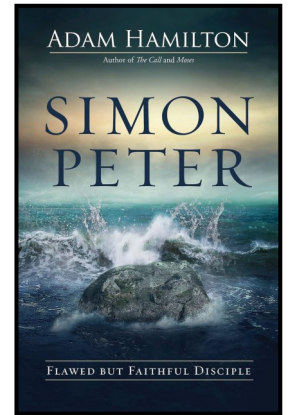
Lenten Wednesday Study Starting 2/21

Lenten Wednesday Study SIMON PETER: Flawed but Faithful Disciple

HE LEFT EVERYTHING to follow his teacher and possessed a passion that would change the world. That's one way to describe Peter. Here's another: poor, uneducated, quick-tempered, and full of doubts and fears. Doesn't even sound like the same man. And that's the point of *Simon Peter*, a six-week adult Bible study by Adam Hamilton.

Peter was just an ordinary guy who heard and followed God's extraordinary call. Discover how you, too, have special gifts, talents, and abilities that God can use to make a difference today. Class is free,

suggested \$15 donation for books. Class starts at 4 pm with light supper at 5:30.



Sessions include:

- 2/21 – The Call of the Fisherman
- 2/28 – Walking with Jesus in the Storm
- 3/5 – Bedrock or Stumbling Block?
- 3/12 – “I Will Not Deny You”
- 3/19 – From Cowardice to Courage
- 3/26 – The Rest of the Story
- 4/3 – No Class
- 4/10 – Epilogue and Wrap-up

February Services and Wednesday Online Meditations

FEBRUARY 4

*Wellness Wisdom
Nourishing Body & Soul*
Isaiah 40:29-31:
Corinthians 6:19-20

FEBRUARY 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

12:00 PM
Imposition of Ashes

FEBRUARY 18

*Wandering Heart:
“Jesus Sought Me”*
Luke 5:1-11
Psalm 25:1-10

10:00 AM WEDNESDAY ONLINE DEVOTIONS

2/7—*Renewing Our
Commitment:
Sustaining Faith & Action*
Isaiah 40:11-14, 21-24, 28-31

FEBRUARY 11

*Crafting a Love-Filled
Legacy: Writing Our
Life's Story*
Philippians 4:13:2
Corinthians 9:6-7

5:30 PM

*Wandering Heart:
“Tune My Heart”*
Psalm 51:1-17
*(with imposition of
ashes)*

FEBRUARY 25

*Wandering Heart:
“Rescue Me From
Danger”*
Matthew 14:22-33;
Psalm 22:23-31

2/14—*Visio Divina*
Luke 5:1-11
Psalm 25:1-10

2/21—*Visio Divina*
Matthew 14:22-33
Psalm 22:23-31

2/28—*Visio Divina*
Matthew 16:13-20; Psalm 19

United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

SUCCESSFUL ADVENT CALENDAR MISSION PROJECT:

With the help of Pastor Ann, United Methodist Men in Mission and United Women in Faith, our Velda Rose congregation donated \$600.00 to "Save the Family" plus the donations in kind of 2,188 baby diapers, 39 packages of baby wipes, 49 toys, 32 baby blankets, and 51 other baby lotions and shampoos.

Thank you to our Velda Rose congregation for your participation at Christmas in donating canned goods for the Velda Rose Food Pantry. You helped many local families with 443 food items and over 106 personal hygiene products.

Ron Roberts, (lay leader), Tish Roberts (Social Action Coordinator), and Billie Larime, (Mission Coordinator), counted all the above items and delivered them on January 8 & 9th to the Velda Rose Food Pantry and "Save the Family".

FEBRUARY "OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH"

All women of the church are invited to our next Social Gathering sponsored by Velda Rose United Women in Faith.

Date: Friday, Feb 9th, 2024

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Where: Cracker Barrel, 1799 N. Higley Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85234

Hostess: Pat Nixon

Reservations required: Call office or Hostess

UWF RECOGNIZES FIVE OUTSTANDING MISSION WORKERS

United Women in Faith yearly recognizes in our congregation people that show exceptional service to the Mission of the Church here at Velda Rose. This year we recognized at the Jan. 21st UWF Worship Service the following people.

Ron Roberts: Volunteer in the Velda Rose Sound Booth & Mission Warehouse

Nisi Kaipelea: Volunteer in the Velda Rose Sound Booth & Staff Parish Committee

Howard Orr: Volunteer in the Sound Booth and Board of Trustees

Duane Clark: 20 years on the Board of Trustees and now Chairperson of the Velda Rose Governance Board

Carolyn Parker: Volunteer in the Church's Food Pantry and United Women in Faith Mission Warehouse

United Women in Faith thanked these five recipients with Mission Recognition Pins.

Submitted by Billie Larime, President and Membership Chairperson

UWF MEETING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1

United Women In Faith will be meeting Thursday, February 1, at 11:30 in Martin Hall. Bring a dish to share.

One of the nice things United Women in Faith is able to do is share projects from other conferences. Our next meeting we will hear about a project from The Dakotas Conference. They have a project providing solar ovens for other countries.

Our guest speaker will be showing us an oven and talk about the success of their program.
PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

Pat Nixon President
Velda Rose United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Rummage Sale Feb. 22-24

RUMMAGE SALE

**PLEASE, PLEASE,
PLEASE...
THE RUMMAGE
SALE IS COMING
ON FEBRUARY
22-24!**

The rummage sale is only a few weeks away. It takes a lot of people to pull this sale off. If you have worked in a department in the past, please contact the department chair and let them know that you can help. We are going to need people to work in the holding area, people to work at the doors, and people to work at the wrapping stations. Volunteers can be men or women, either Velda Rose members or just friends who might want to help. One of the perks of working is that you get to come in all during the year and shop.

Here is how the calendar looks for February 2024:

February 1 Workers need to be sure to wear their badge when coming into the building.

February 5-9 (8 a.m. to 11 a.m.) is the last week for worker-family and friend shopping. Family and friends (no more than 2 at a time) must be accompanied by the worker.

February 9 (Friday) last day for getting a large item picked up. Call David and leave a message being sure to include name and phone number. Call before February 9, if you want a pickup by February 9.

February 13 (Tuesday) Pre-Sale Meeting for all workers, 10 a.m. in Moore Hall.

February 16 (Friday) Last day to drop off items.

February 12-16 is for workers only and workers can buy.

February 19 (Monday) Help is needed getting the tents up. Once the tents are up, we need many people to help empty the

pods, arrange items, clean, and price items for the sale.

February 19, 20, and 21 are workers only (no friends and/or family) and **there are no sales**. This gives the departments time to put finishing touches to their shelves and/or racks prior to the sale opening. Help is also needed on these dates with cleaning and arranging and pricing items coming out of the pods.



February 24 (Saturday) after the Sale. Help is needed in getting everything taken down and put back into the building.

February 26 (Monday) 75% off for workers only, with your badge on.

February 27 and 28 (Tuesday and Wednesday) Gleaning by other organizations. They must bring their own boxes and bags and help to move their items out of the building. Departments may want to have workers in their areas to be sure that display items are not removed.

March 6 (Wednesday) After-Action Meeting, 10 a.m. Moore Hall

March 10 Pick ups resume. Call David for a pick up.

VRUMC Food Pantry News



ON MONDAY, JANUARY 22, our food pantry volunteers had a terrible shock. Someone broke into our food pantry Sunday night by breaking a window, climbing through, cutting him/herself in the process, creating a

mess, and stealing about \$1,000 in food. It makes us sad because if they had just asked, we would have given them food. (That's literally what we do.) It makes us sad that anyone feels so desperate, so lost, or so disconnected that they turn to stealing, and stealing from the food pantry no less!

We ask you to pray for the workers who felt shock, dismay, and even violation, that someone would do this, when all the volunteers want to do is help.

We ask you to pray for the people who were so desperate or lost that they stole from us.

And we ask for your help to restock our food pantry so we can help our neighbors in need.

Our updated list of current needs is as follows:

- ◇ Spaghetti noodles & sauce
- ◇ Spam
- ◇ Canned chicken
- ◇ Canned tuna
- ◇ Vienna sausages
- ◇ Mac-n-cheese
- ◇ Canned meals (i.e., Chef Boyardee Lasagna, etc.)
- ◇ Jelly / Jam
- ◇ Peanut butter
- ◇ Pancake mix
- ◇ Pancake syrup
- ◇ Fruit / applesauce / pudding cups
- ◇ Canned vegetables (peas, corn, green beans)
- ◇ Canned diced tomatoes
- ◇ Canned fruit (cocktail, pears, peaches)
- ◇ Canned beans (pinto, black, pork & beans)
- ◇ Canned soup (tomato, chicken noodle, beef vegetable)
- ◇ Granola bars

Donations are received at the Food Pantry, Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am, in the church office M – TH from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, or Sundays, in the shopping carts at the front of the Sanctuary.

One Simple Thing Improves Multiple Areas of Health

Science has found a miracle that reduces cortisol (the stress hormone), increases confidence, improves breathing, reduces isolation (recently identified as a serious public health risk), stimulates the vagus nerve, reduces pain, strengthens the immune system, and increases confidence and more. It is not expensive drug. It is not surgery. It isn't an expensive or time consuming gym membership. It only requires a few hours a week (perhaps as little as 2 hours!). And it is even endorsed by scripture. What is this miracle?

SINGING. That's right, singing has extraordinary health benefits and builds social connections.

And according to at least one website, there are more than 100 Bible verses telling us to make a "joyful noise to the Lord." So singing is important spiritually too.

How can you tap into this veritable fountain of health and spiritual strength? Join the Velda Rose Singers! We meet on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the choir room (Sanctuary building) and sing in worship several times a month.



Join now to bring beautiful music to our Lenten and Easter worship.

Venture Out Swing Band Friday, February 9

NO FUN WITHOUT MUSIC—NO MUSIC WITHOUT FUN

Join us Friday, February 9th at 5:00 PM in the Sanctuary for an entertaining evening of music, fun, and fellowship as Venture Out Swing Band— a seventeen-piece volunteer group that plays simply for the joy of playing—puts “a smile on your face and gets your toes tapping.” This is a perfect pre-Valentine’s Day evening, complete with Valentine sweets.

There is no charge to attend, but Venture Out Swing Band does accept free will offerings (cash only). All funds will be directed to a Inner Mesa school arts program.

“Every time we attend a performance of the Venture Out Swing Band we are entertained and amazed. This group of mainly retired professional musicians are so talented and professional. They put a smile on your face and get your toes tapping. Don’t miss an opportunity to experience this group.” - Gerry and Cher Rafferty

“Their motto, “no music or laughter without fun, no fun without music and laughter,” becomes very apparent when they perform. I would highly recommend inviting them to entertain your guests. They do not charge but accept honorariums to help buy new music and equipment.”



- Teresa Beatty, Venture Out Activity Director



Leap to Donate Blood on February 29

**DONATE
BLOOD
SAVE LIFE**

**FEBRUARY 29
8 AM to 1 PM**

IN DECEMBER, Velda Rose UMC, its members and the surrounding community donated 22 units of blood! That’s at least 22 lives saved because we made space available and supported the blood drive. That brings our total to 106 units of blood!

Even if you gave in December (unless you gave Power Reds), you can give at our next drive, February 29—Leap Day!

Pastor Ann signed up for the first appointment! To sign up, scan the QR code or go to <http://tinyurl.com/Febblooddr>.



REGISTER NOW!

We can sign you up in the church office, if you prefer.

Will you join Pastor Ann and help save lives?

United Methodist Men



The UMMM group will conduct its monthly produce give-away on 17 Feb, 9:00-11:00, in Moore Hall. If you know of someone in need who could

use a free 10-lb bag of fresh fruit and vegetables, stop by on the 17th and pick up a bag.

Feb 22-24 we will be manning the food and beverage concession in support of the UWF semi-annual Rummage Sale. We will once again be

offering coffee, donuts, and our area-famous Sloppy Joe sandwiches at bargain basement prices.



Our next monthly meeting is 5 Feb, 11:30-13:00, in Martin Hall. Stop by to enjoy some fellowship and a free lunch and learn more about our community service projects. We are the friendliest bunch of guys you'd ever hope to meet.

RIP Medical Debt Update

This article was originally shared by Billie K. Fidlin on January 4, 2024 at dscumc.org.



Recently we received a letter from **RIP Medical Debt**, penned by an anonymous beneficiary in the Las Vegas area. The letter reads:

“This is a blessing. I have had so much stress over my debt and to have it removed by an angel is truly a blessing. I can’t thank this organization enough for its generosity and support. The financial stress tends to trickle into the tension between family in the house, and now the stress is much less and we

can truly relax a little and enjoy family time with more ease. Family is everything and life is short. This is such a blessing and has had a huge impact on me

and my family.” - Anonymous

The debt relieved for this family was \$1,150.40.

Many more families were helped through the Annual Conference 2023 initiative. Each year our Conference makes great impact where help is needed most, whether it’s an international effort, or need right around the corner. Thank you for your giving hearts Desert Southwest!

Winter Salad

Ingredients

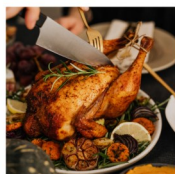
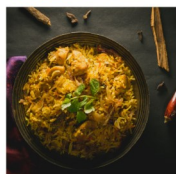
1/2 C cider vinegar
1/2 C sugar
1/4 C vegetable oil
1 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
1 can (1 lb)
sauerkraut
1 med. onion,
chopped
2 pimientos, chopped
1/2 tsp garlic salt
1 tsp celery seed

Directions

1. Combine first five ingredients in saucepan.
2. Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve sugar.
3. Turn sauerkraut into strainer; rinse well with water.
4. Toss together the sauerkraut, onions, green peppers, pimientos, garlic salt and celery seed.
5. Pour the hot mixture over all and mix.
6. Chill at least several hours.

Submitted by K Roemmich

Share Your Recipe in the Vision Newsletter!



A RECIPE

IS A STORY THAT
ENDS WITH A
GOOD MEAL.

PAT CONROY

DO YOU HAVE THAT “ONE” RECIPE everyone *begs* you to dish out (see what we did there)?

Maybe you’d love to share a recipe in memory or honor of a special someone.

If so, we’d love to share it in the newsletter!

Submit your recipe to Pastor Ann at pastorann@veldarose.org, or contact the church office.

#WeAreLOVE Campaign



DURING THIS PAST CHURCH/CHARGE CONFERENCES, the District Superintendents shared the news about a new campaign extending the 2023 Annual Conference #WeAre theme. The new campaign is #WeAreLOVE, and it is guiding the work and interactions between the District Superintendents and Bishop with our churches and each other. The campaign's focus is LOVE. Here are the details about what the campaign stands for.

#WeAre called to LOVE, leading in LOVE, and growing in LOVE!

- L = Listen to stories, be
- O = Open to change,
- V = Value diversity, and
- E = Embody belonging in our life and work of ministry.

The guiding scriptures for this campaign are Proverbs 3:3-4 and Romans 12:10.

You'll notice the new theme in our social media graphics, district newsletters, and messaging from now to Annual Conference 2024. Consider how this campaign might guide the ministry that *you* are involved in.

Contact Us Using Our Website!



Share online attendance, sign up for our e-newsletter, or contact the church office regarding Praise, Prayers or Concerns in just a few quick clicks by using our e-form!

Simply go to veldarose.org, click on the Contact Us tab, and enter the relevant information, or go to www.veldarose.org/contact-us.html.

From the Archives

IN CELEBRATION OF Velda Rose UMC's 60th anniversary this year, every month we will be sharing history from the archives in *The Vision* newsletter.



- From VRUMC's 1984 (20th Anniversary) church directory: *"Mary Virginia Moore recollects this incident. At a special service on Ash Wednesday, the year before the All Saints Church on Recker Road was completed, a combined service of Catholics and Methodists was held. Some Methodist asked Father O'Grady to put ashes on their foreheads, and some Catholics asked Rev. Moore to do the same for them. Prior to completion of their building the Catholics held one mass and a Bible Study Class in the Velda Rose Church."*

- In July 1967, Velda Rose UMC Ladies Society Cookbooks were sold for \$1.50.

And finally, quiz answers from last month's article:

- In 1967 it was announced that the carillon chimes were to be placed in the tower, "a gift to the church from one of our church families".



What, according to the 1966 Velda Rose newsletter, averaged "25 youngsters daily" and was also a "popular site for picnics, bar-b-ques and classes"?

- A church swimming pool! Excerpt from the March 2013 Vision newsletter: "...Yes, there was a swimming pool on the church property adjacent to a home acquired by the church along with the rest of the property at Main & 56th Street—average 25 youngsters daily—also popular site for picnics, bar-b-ques and classes."

Prayer

Prayer

NEED PRAYER? To be added to the United Women in Faith prayer chain, call Lynda Boysen, or contact the church office.

Our LOVE prayer focus:
North Scottsdale United Methodist



- ◆ Red Mountain UMC, Mesa
- ◆ Shepherd of the Pine UMC, Overgaard
- ◆ Scottsdale UMC

Walk to Emmaus February 2024



THE WALK TO EMMAUS CAN BE A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE. Both men's and women's walks are scheduled for February 2024 in the Phoenix area at Lakeview UMC in Sun City, AZ.

The Men's Walk #259 is February 15-18, 2024.

The Women's Walk #260 is February 29-March 3, 2024.

Sponsor information for Pilgrims can be found on the website at www.azemmaus.org.

The cost for a pilgrim is \$150.00 with a \$30.00 deposit when sending in the application.

A team member's cost is \$125.00.

Scholarships may be available. Contact the AZ Walk to Emmaus office at 623.937.9391 or visit them at www.azemmaus.org.

The Green Team

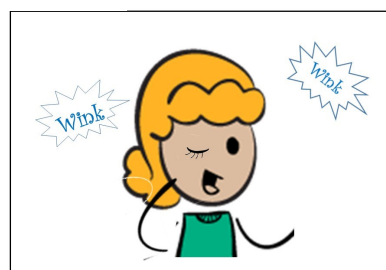
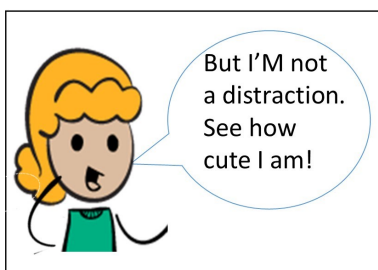
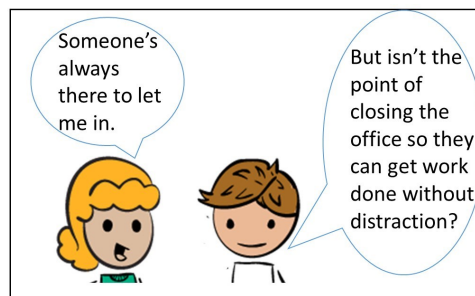
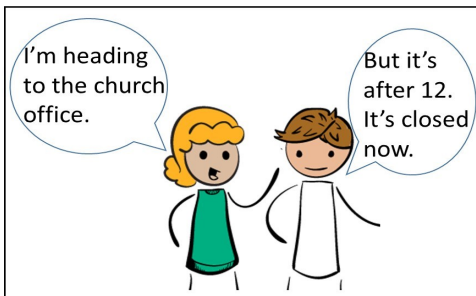
FROM THE GREEN TEAM... We are excited for 2024!!! It's another chance to open our minds again. For our first meeting of the New Year we all decided that we need to focus on more than just plastic pollution (that will never stop). A few of the subjects we will focus on this year will of course be "Let's eliminate plastics", All about pollinators Bees, Butterflies, flowers, etc. However... we are really excited to make our main focus this year on trees. Which only God can make, so we are going to try to help Him in any way we can. If

anyone is an expert on trees, please let us know. We can use all the help we can get.



In the meantime... Get rid of a few more plastics, plant a tree, plant those flowers so the birds and bees and butterflies can enjoy them and pollinate them further. The Green Team thanks you and GOD thanks you.

Church Office Hours



THE CHURCH OFFICE is now open from 9 am—12 noon, Monday through Thursday. Other hours available by appointment only. If you need assistance from the office and cannot get to the office during office hours, please call to make an appointment. Alternatively, you can send an email to officeadmin@veldarose.org and someone will get back to you, by phone or email, as soon as possible.

Birthdays



Judy Dubois	2/2	Richard Williams	2/23
Dale Smith	2/2	Jan Arnold	2/25
Pat Mayhall	2/12	Sheila Waterbury	2/25
Helen Taylor	2/14	Seini Latu	2/26
Claris Olson	2/15	Deonna Larson	2/29
Judie Thompson	2/18	Karl Wilhelm	2/29

Anniversaries



Palei and Melisa Ika	2/20
Sione and Sulia Kaipelea	2/28



THE FAMILY OF FRANK YODER would like everyone to know that Frank has moved to Legacy Assisted Living on McKellips. If you would like to call or visit Frank but do not have his contact information, please contact the church office.



VELDA ROSE

United Methodist Church

5540 East Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85205-8720
(480) 832-2111
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Stay connected at veldarose.org
or on Facebook at facebook.com/veldaroseumc

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Staff Leadership

- Rev. Carlo A. Rapanut, Bishop
- Rev. Melissa Rynders, East District Superintendent
- Rev. Ann Lyter, Senior Pastor
- Rev. Chan Kim, Associate Pastor
- Ministers, Every Member of the Congregation

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday Morning Devotions

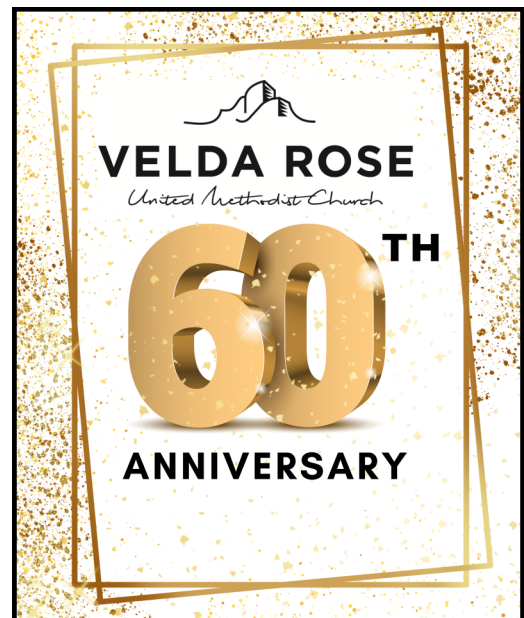
10:00 AM

Online at facebook.com/veldaroseumc

Sunday Morning Services

9:30 AM

Online at facebook.com/veldaroseumc
& in-person in the Sanctuary



Items considered for the March Vision must be submitted to officeadmin@veldarose.org by **Tuesday, February 13, 2024.**