

# The Vision

Volume 17, Issue 3

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

March 2024

## Embracing Imperfection By Rev. Ann Lyter

DECADES AGO I TOOK an 8-week pencil drawing class, not drawing pencils, but drawing *with* pencils. I learned all about the scale for pencils that indicate how hard or soft the graphite is—soft pencils, like a 4B, for darker shading and smudging, hard pencils like a 2H for finer lines, details, and lighter shading. I did my exercises and filled my sketch book with my assignments. Toward the end of the class, about week 7 as I remember, the instructor was walking around the room, looking at everyone’s artwork, praising their efforts, and giving them encouragement. I was proud of my work. The egg on the white cloth looked like an egg! And the drawing of my living room ottoman looked exactly like the ottoman, at least to my eye. As she came to my station, there was an awkward silence. As the silence grew, I sensed that she was struggling to find something positive to say. Finally, she said, “it’s very ... geometric.” And I knew then that I might be able to graph out a math problem, or chart a furniture layout, but I did not have the eye or the hands of a true artist.

It turns out that I’m not perfect after all. I hope that doesn’t disappoint anyone. There are some things I cannot do, drawing is just one of them. But I’m not the only one. I will even go so far as to say that none of us are perfect, and not just in the “all-have-sinned-and-fallen-short” sense found in Romans. The nature of humanity is imperfection, which is really just diversity. I may not be able to draw, but others can. Perfection, after all, is a judgment and often based on an aesthetic that changes over time. Am I too short? Too tall? Too heavy? Too skinny? Too dark? Too pale? Too athletic? Too sedentary? Too abrupt? Not plain-speaking? For which decade and which culture? Because what is seen as perfect or even preferred, changes over time and across cultures. What we often call flaws or imperfections are the unique way God created us.

In the tapestry of human existence, imperfection weaves its threads intricately, shaping the very fabric of our lives. Yet, within the depths of our flaws lies an invitation – an invitation to embrace imperfection as a sacred journey towards wholeness and grace.

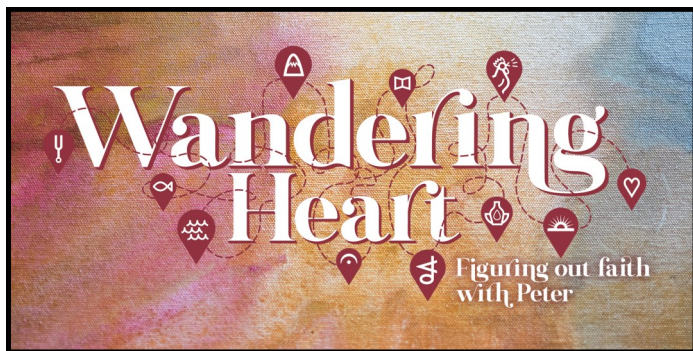
Scripture abounds with narratives of imperfect individuals whom God used mightily despite, and sometimes because of, their flaws. Consider the story of Moses, a hesitant and stuttering leader chosen by God to deliver His people from bondage. Peter’s narrative unfolds as a testament to the reality that faith is not a linear progression but rather a dynamic journey marked by highs and lows, victories and setbacks. Like many of us, Peter’s path is far from polished or perfect.

In our exploration of Peter’s faith journey, we are reminded of the profound truth that God meets us in the midst of our imperfections. Just as Peter’s story is characterized by a mixture of strengths and weaknesses, triumphs and failures, so too are our own lives marked by a similar dichotomy. And yet, it is precisely within our imperfections that the grace and love of God shine most brightly.

Brené Brown, a leading voice on vulnerability and courage, emphasizes that it is through our vulnerability and imperfection that we find true connection with others and with God. She writes, “Imperfections are not inadequacies; they are reminders that we’re all in this together.”

Real-life examples abound of individuals who have embraced their imperfections and found profound purpose and meaning in doing so. Consider the story of Henri Nouwen, a renowned spiritual writer who struggled deeply with feelings of inadequacy and self-doubt. Yet, through his vulnerability and openness about his struggles, Nouwen’s words continue to inspire and uplift countless souls around the world.

In our own lives, embracing imperfection invites us into a deeper understanding of God’s grace and love. It reminds us that we are not defined by our flaws, but rather by the boundless love of a God who sees us as beloved and worthy. As we journey through Lent towards Easter, let us release the burden of perfectionism and instead embrace the beauty of our imperfect selves. For it is through our imperfections that God’s grace shines most brightly, transforming our weaknesses into avenues of divine glory and grace.



wandering heart (and ours) is also the focus for our Wednesday on-line meditations using the spiritual practice of *visio divina* or sacred seeing. And our Wednesday afternoon study also focuses on Peter, using Adam Hamilton's book *Simon Peter*.

**Worship**—The heart of our Wandering Heart worship series began with Ash Wednesday and will continue through the third week of Easter (4/14).

- 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

## 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.

In addition to worship, our focus on Peter and his

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# General Conference News

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GENERAL CONFERENCE BRINGS TOGETHER lay and clergy delegates from four continents whose decisions will affect how millions of United Methodists do church for years to come. Think of the two-week gathering as a combination of a United Nations General Assembly, a U.S. congressional session and a time of rousing Christian worship. The coming General Conference is scheduled for April 23-May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina. Usually scheduled every four years, the last regular session was in May 2016 — nearly eight years ago—because of COVID.

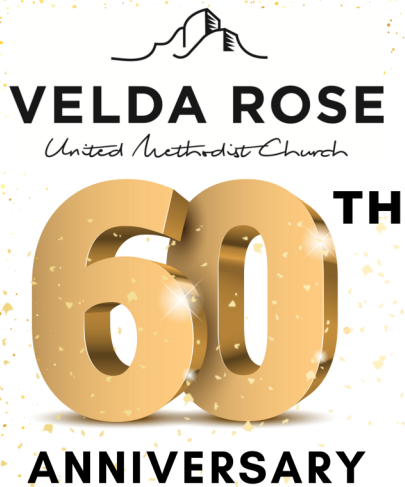
General Conference is the denomination's highest legislative body. The lawmaking assembly deals with matters as varied as the denomination's budget, social teachings, ecumenical relations and international structure. All matters under consideration are available online through [DailyChristianAdvocate.org](http://DailyChristianAdvocate.org), at a cost of \$49.99 for a public account. Be forewarned, there are three volumes plus a supplement.

As the date for General Conference approaches, delegates around the globe are raising alarms that they lack details about the long-delayed legislative

assembly. These concerns range from lack of details about travel and hotel arrangements for US delegates to the even more serious concern that some delegates outside the U.S. have not yet received an invitation letter — the crucial first step to obtaining a visa to travel to General Conference.

General Conference organizers told United Methodist News that they plan to communicate many of those details by early March.

Good News and the Wesleyan Covenant Association plan to be a lobbying presence at General Conference, despite having been part of forming the Global Methodist Church and then actively encouraged congregations to leave The UMC and join the Global Methodist Church. These lobbying bodies are clearly aligned with that new, breakaway denomination. Their expressed purpose now is to lobby "for exit paths for congregations and annual conferences." This does not sit well with delegates loyal to The UMC who seek to focus on, "charting our path forward to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," as expressed by Rev. Stan Copeland, a North Texas Conference delegate.

The logo for Velda Rose UMC's 60th anniversary. It features a stylized mountain range icon at the top. Below it, the text "VELDA ROSE" is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with "United Methodist Church" in a smaller, cursive font underneath. The number "60" is prominently displayed in large, 3D gold-colored numerals, with "TH" in a smaller font to its right. At the bottom, the word "ANNIVERSARY" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. The entire logo is enclosed in a gold-colored rectangular frame with a double-line border.

VELDA ROSE  
*United Methodist Church*  
**60<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

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

**VELDA ROSE UMC WILL CELEBRATE OUR 60TH ANNIVERSARY WITH HOMECOMING SUNDAY ON APRIL 7.** Worship will be a Hymn Sing and Holy Communion with the gathered community. The Hymn Sing will be a countdown of VRUMC favorite hymns, as voted on by you! Final voting has already started. You can pick up a ballot in worship and vote every week until the voting closes on March 17. Voting is also available on our website: <https://www.veldarose.org/favorite-hymn-voting.html>

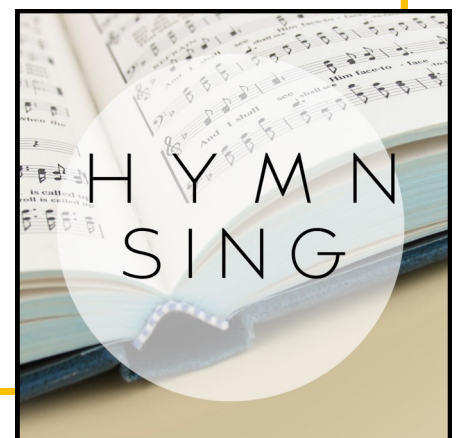
Then be sure to join us for worship on April 7th as we countdown and sing the top 10 hymns at Velda Rose UMC. Worship will also include Holy Communion when we confirm that we are a community, in unity with Christ and each other, in this moment and into eternity.

### **Following worship, join us for a potluck!**

After worship we will return to our Methodist roots with a potluck. We can't wait to taste everyone's favorite dishes. Sign-ups will be available in worship so we can get a headcount and make sure we have enough tables and chairs, and you can indicate what you are planning on bringing. You can also sign up through our office. The church will provide drinks. We will have paper products and disposable flatware but you are encouraged to bring your own place settings, to wash at home, so we can keep the trash to a minimum.

### **Invite Your Friends and Former Members**

Invitations will be available in worship beginning March 3rd, and by email, so you can invite friends that used to attend Velda Rose UMC.



# Annual Conference Update

THIS YEAR'S DESERT SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be June 13-16 in Tucson. As part of the session, the Annual Conference will celebrate all the Desert Southwest Conference has accomplished even as we prepare to turn the page and write the next chapter!

The planners of Annual Conference are asking for our help. "Our goal is to have a huge visual display, a horizontal timeline – similar to a family tree featuring photos and stories from all our churches. God is at work in so many ways through the churches of the Desert Southwest Conference!" Annual Conference Sessions Committee

We are asked, as a congregation, to write up a 200 word story about that ONE BIG accomplishment that will be shared with the entire Annual Conference.

Our 60th Anniversary is a wonderful time to share stories so we can pick one and perfect it before the submission deadline of May 15.

Out of all the many ways Velda Rose UMC has impacted the community, the number of lives now in relationship with Christ, pastors and other leaders mentored, the ministries launched, community partnerships established, non-profits started, what is the ONE BIG accomplishment you are most proud of?

In addition to the story, we are also being asked to provide pictures, one historical and one current.



If anyone has a particularly good picture of our church building, in its original form, or current, that you would like us to use, please contact the church office.

## East Valley Chorale Performing March 23 at 6:00 PM



THE EAST VALLEY CHORALE was formed in 1999 to share the hope and joy of the Gospel message. They currently have around 100 singers from 50 different Phoenix area churches. The Chorale performs a variety of styles that include traditional Hymns, Light Classical, and Contemporary Christian arrangements.

The East Valley Chorale shares the Gospel message with diverse audiences and enjoys

connecting with believers, seekers, and music lovers at churches, community events, retirement communities, and nursing homes and care facilities. It brings them much joy to see and hear how God uses their music in the lives of their listeners.

The Chorale has recorded 10 CDs and can be seen and heard on YouTube, Spotify and Pandora.

East Valley Chorale's spring event with orchestra is free, but if you enjoy the program, a free will offering would be gratefully accepted. (Please make checks out to East Valley Chorale.)

## SIMON PETER: Flawed but Faithful Disciple Study Continues

### 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, that we began on 2/21.

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 is from 4-5:30 pm.

Remaining sessions:

3/6—Bedrock or Stumbling Block?

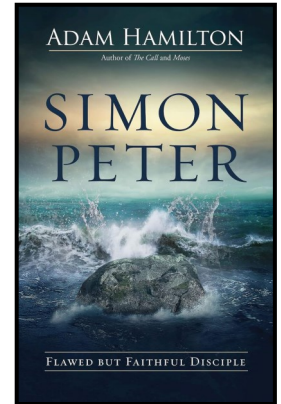
3/13—"I Will Not Deny You"

3/20—From Cowardice to Courage

3/27—The Rest of the Story

4/3—No Class

4/10—Epilogue and Wrap-up



## March Services & Wednesday Online Meditations

### MARCH 3

*Wandering Heart:*  
"Praise the mount"  
Matthew 16:13-20; Psalm 19

### MARCH 10

*Wandering Heart:*  
"I'm fixed upon it"  
Matthew 16:21-23;  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

### MARCH 17

*Wandering Heart:*  
"Teach me"  
Matthew 18:15-22;  
Psalm 119:9-16

### MARCH 24

*Wandering Heart:*  
"Songs of loudest praise"  
John 12:12-16

### MARCH 28

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
**7 PM, INCLUDES HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

*Wandering Heart:*  
*Stations of Peter*  
"Streams of mercy"  
John 13:1-20

### MARCH 29

**GOOD FRIDAY**

*Wandering Heart:*  
Silent Meditation and  
Labyrinth

### MARCH 31

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

**6 AM AT** Alta Mesa Park,  
between Brown & McKellips on  
Alta Mesa (56th St).

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY SERVICE**  
**9:30 AM, INCLUDES HOLY**  
**COMMUNION**

*Wandering Heart:* "And I hope"  
Luke 24:1-12

**10:00 AM WEDNESDAY**  
**ONLINE DEVOTIONS:**  
**VISIO DIVINA**

3/6—Matthew 16:21-23

3/13—Matthew 18:15-22

3/20—John 12:12-16

3/27—John 13:1-20

# United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

**VELDA ROSE UNITED  
WOMEN IN FAITH** will meet  
Thursday, March 7, in  
Martin Hall. We will share

lunch at 11:30.

Kathy Kolbo will lead the Prayer and Self Denial.

K Roemmich will continue the program by leading "New Beginnings".

Please come and join United Women in Faith.

Pat Nixon  
President



Your selfless giving joins the generosity of others who lift their hearts and hands to God to raise the voices of those impacted by climate crises.

Gifts to A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2024 will support programs for climate justice put into action by United Women in Faith.

Karen Workman gave an informative program on Solar Ovens. A project of the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Karen and Lyle Workman are winter visitors at Velda Rose.



These solar ovens are made and transported for assembly and education. Volunteers in Mission partner in the project.

Thank you, Karen and Lyle.

## **"Out to Lunch Bunch"**

Join other women of faith for a monthly lunch of sharing. All women are welcome, but reservations are required. Each month we have a different Hostess to take reservations and call ahead for the number of women attending. We are scheduled to go to Applebee's Grill & Bar on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. on a Friday morning. Applebee's is located at 1143 N. Higley Rd., Mesa, AZ 85205. Call Hostess Billie Larime or the Church Office to make a reservation. Bring a friend of faith to join in our fellowship each month.

## **Mission u will offer two Bible studies at Payson UMC on June 21 & 22, 2024.**

Join us for an in-person or a virtual Mission u. In-person on June 21-22 or a virtual Adult Study on July 19 & 20<sup>th</sup>. Billie Larime is the Mission u Dean for 2024. Scholarships are available through the Velda Rose United Women in Faith Unit. For further information contact Billie Larime.

The Adult Study is: *Welcome Home* by Neomi Fletcher-The curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

The Youth Study is: *Cultivating Symbiosis: The Nature of God's Kin-dom* by Nica Sy. In Creation, we see the power of symbiosis, interdependent relationship. The curriculum explores the idea of symbiosis between our relationships with one another and our

## United Women in Faith, continued

relationship with God. By drawing closer to one another and our world, we draw closer to the kingdom.

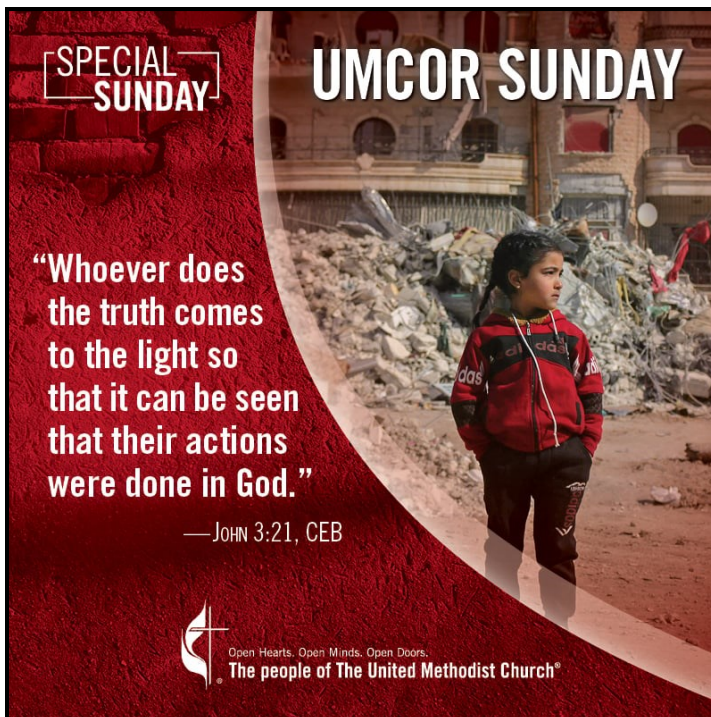
We have three awesome Study Leaders for Mission this year. Pastor Sherry Brady from Duncan United Methodist Church. Lois Downin from First United Methodist Church of Mesa, AZ. and Nicholas Grainger pastor of Hope UMC in Bullhead City, AZ.

**Closing Remarks by Billie Larime, Velda**

### **Rose UW Faith President and Membership Chair**

A Dose of Gratitude: How Being Thankful Can Keep You Healthy. Studies show that people who regularly practice giving thanks are happier.

## March 10 is UMCOR SUNDAY



ON UMCOR SUNDAY, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. The funds UMCOR receives on this special Sunday are offered by millions of United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business.

From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes. Thanks to UMCOR's informed and reliable infrastructure, expert leadership and experienced volunteers, every dollar received is leveraged to work as hard as possible. At a time when it may feel like we have lost so much, embracing God's love for us can shift our perspective to recognize and share abundant grace. United Methodist special Sunday offerings

celebrate vibrant ministries while investing in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support these important ministries equips us to work together, empowered by God's love. When you give generously to support UMCOR Sunday, you embody compassion and you shine God's light into the shadows as a beacon of hope.

### **HOW TO GIVE:**

Write a check to your local church and write, "UMCOR Sunday offering" in the memo line. To give online or set up monthly giving, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](http://UMC.org/SSGive).

## VRUMC Food Pantry News

**2023'S NUMBERS ARE IN:** Total donations given directly to the Velda Rose UMC Food Pantry (seasonal special offerings included) totaled approximately \$20,400. The total amount spent by the VRUMC Food Pantry for food and materials in 2023 was approximately \$23,700.

As shared in the January 2024 Vision newsletter, between 1/5 and 12/28/2023, the VRUMC Food Pantry reached 2,038 individuals and distributed 902 food boxes (food and individual totals for houseless emergency bags not included).

According to the USDA's Economic Research Service, "***In 2024, all food prices are predicted to increase 2.9 percent, with a prediction interval of 0.5 to 5.3 percent. Food-at-home prices are predicted to increase 1.6 percent, with a prediction interval of -1.8 to 5.3 percent, and food-away-from-home prices are predicted to increase 5.0 percent, with a prediction interval of 3.7 to 6.3 percent.***"

Though 2021 and 2022 saw the highest inflation in recent years, the continual increase of food prices and living costs will likely result in even more friends and neighbors seeking assistance from our Food Pantry in 2024.

### Our list of current needs is as follows:

- ◇ Spaghetti noodles & sauce
- ◇ Spam, Vienna sausages, canned chicken or tuna
- ◇ Mac-n-cheese
- ◇ Canned meals (Chef Boyardee Lasagna, etc.)
- ◇ Jelly / Jam, Peanut Butter
- ◇ Pancake mix and 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.

## Lenten and Easter Offering

Ask people what ministry at Velda Rose UMC provides the most practical help and has the power to change lives, and many will say the same thing, the Food Pantry. Offering food to our neighbors facing food insecurity, the Food Pantry is a vital safety net for many who can find no other help. For too many retirees in Mesa, navigating life's uncertainties on a fixed income can be daunting, and young family too often struggle, but within the walls of this pantry, they find solace, support, and sustenance.

As January drew to a close, the sobering reality was the demands placed upon the food pantry have surpassed the resources available. The simple truth is, we spent more than was donated. And this imbalance was not helped by the break-in. While the

good people of Velda Rose UMC have always been generous to the Food Pantry, the need has never been greater than now.

As Christians we have a sacred call to alleviate suffering. Accordingly, I have chosen the Food Pantry as our mission focus Lent and Easter. In the spirit of Lent – a season of reflection, repentance, and sacrificial giving – I am asking the congregation to make our Food Pantry a special focus for donations of food and money. Similarly, the Easter giving letter will focus on the Food Pantry and the need for ongoing support.

I thank you for your support. Pastor Ann





DURING THE MOST RECENT Sessions meeting (planning body for Annual Conference), members agreed that this year’s mission project would focus on support for churches engaged in asylum and border mission. In the coming weeks we will announce items that may be donated to one or two organizations who work in this same area.

In mid-May of 2023, a fund was established to help local churches doing direct service with asylum seekers and immigrants. Entitled Asylum Aid and Border Ministries, this fund supports churches through an application process.

We do not publicize the location of these churches to the general public because of the possibility of threats to those locations. Last year an individual appeared at one of the sites with an AR-15 rifle. This is not uncommon for the ecumenical churches serving asylum seekers throughout the state.

Partner district churches have helped the sites by donating clothing, transportation, and food. The connectional system showing her best!

Asylum seekers come from all over the world – Central America, yes – but so many more places such as India, Angola, Peru, and China – just to name a few. If you follow international news, it is not difficult to understand why people have left their home countries. Leaving ... home. Never an easy decision and always painful. Not just a move from house to house, but leaving your home country – all that you

have known, and traveling to the unknown. Can you imagine moving your own self or family under those circumstances?

Part of the application process includes the question, “Do you have any specific prayer requests for our selection team?” Many times, those requests include “safety for our traveling families” and “strength and safety for our staff and volunteers.” I think each of us would understand, even assume, prayers for the safety of the families who are traveling. But safety – safety– for church staff and volunteers...something to contemplate.

We have witnessed the repeated rise and fall of entry numbers. Sometimes, the numbers have been lower. Many times, as you know from news reports, people coming into our country seeking safety are astoundingly high. The financial need for our churches engaged in this work is great. Their call to help the vulnerable is even greater.

Our prayer is that our always generous Conference churches will respond.

In the coming months, we will publish first-hand accounts from some of the churches engaged in this mission. I am confident your hearts will be moved.

As always, your ongoing prayer is the greatest gift of all.

by [Billie K. Fidlin](#) | Feb 7, 2024 | [dscumc.org](#)

# United Methodist Men



Martin Hall. Stop by to volunteer or pick up a bag of fruit and veggies for a neighbor in need.



The men will take the lead on the Memorial Day Sunday church service, 26 May. (We need your prayers on this one!)

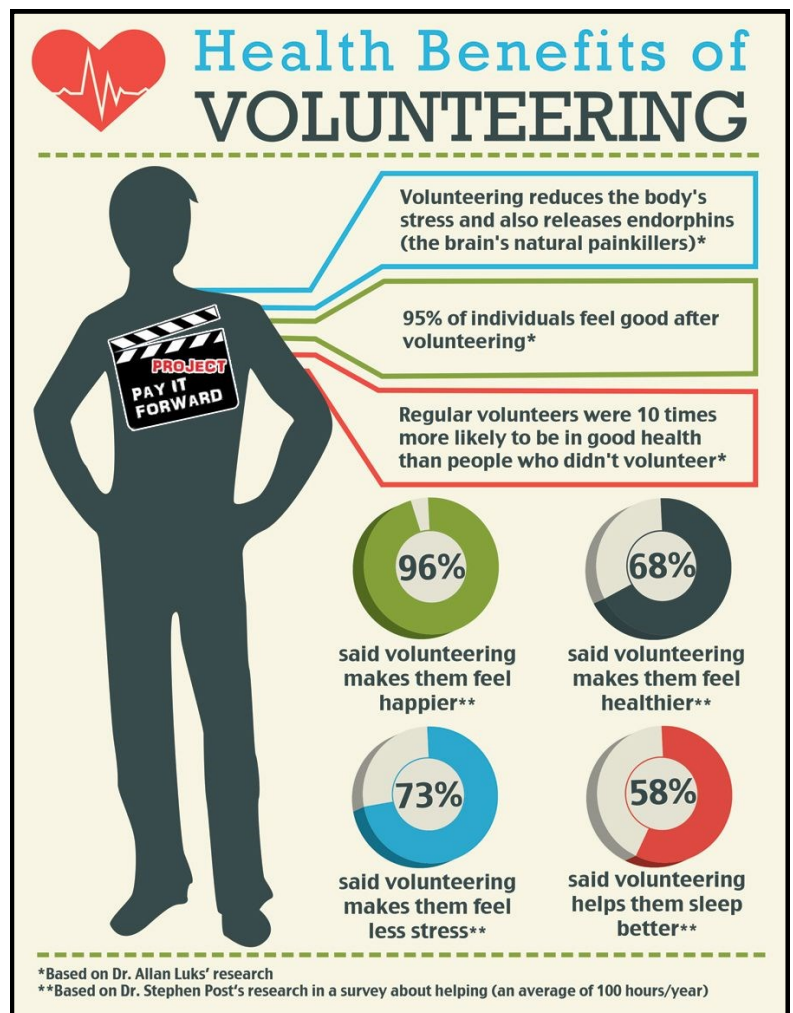
THE UMMM GROUP will conduct its monthly produce give-away on 23 March, 9:00-11:00, in

Our next monthly meeting is 4 March, 11:30-13:00 in Martin Hall. Come join us!

## Thank you, Volunteers!



**Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith. Galatians 6:10 NLT**  
 A huge thank you to everyone who lends a helping hand here at Velda Rose UMC — whether it's the Food Pantry, Vision newsletters and other mass mailings, Sunday morning services or other VRUMC events, committees, Bible studies, or Rummage... your volunteer work does not go unseen!



## Food Corner

# Raisin Pudding

### INGREDIENTS    INSTRUCTIONS

1 C FLOUR  
1 C SUGAR  
2 TSP BAKING  
POWDER  
PINCH OF SALT  
1 C RAISINS  
1 C MILK

Mix raisins with  
the dry  
ingredients.

Stir in the milk  
and pour into  
buttered baking  
dish.

Bring the  
following to a boil:  
1 C brown sugar  
1 T butter  
1 C water

Slowly pour hot  
mixture over the  
batter. Bake at 350  
for 30 minutes.

Submitted by K Roemmich

”

Food, to me, is  
always about  
cooking and eating  
with those you love  
and care for.

DAVID CHANG

**SHARE A RECIPE in the Vision newsletter!** 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](mailto:pastorann@veldarose.org), or contact the church office.

## Choir News: Practice Day Change

CHOIR PRACTICE IS MOVING to Thursday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm (possibly longer if necessary).

We are focusing on Lent and Easter music and will wrap up our choir season after April 14.

Even though there are less than 2 months left in this choir season, we are still welcoming new

members who would like to lift their voices for God’s glory.



# Desert Southwest Camp and Retreat Ministries Updates



## A WORD FROM POTOSI PINES

Dear Desert Southwest Camp and Retreat Community,

Looking back on 2023, I am thankful for the welcome and opportunity to get to know Potosi Pines. It was a year of learning and growth. It was exciting to meet our faithful volunteers and leaders, and I am grateful for their service to our campers and guests. With each event and each guest group, I learned more about how Potosi Pines connects to Las Vegas, the North District, and our greater Desert Southwest Community.

Meeting our campers and their families was a highlight of 2023. It was (and is) a joy to listen to their stories, see them playing, and hear their

laughter as our staff created a summer of community filled with the Spirit and its Fruits. I am very much looking forward to building relationships and connecting with them as 2024 continues to take shape for what's sure to be another great summer and year on the mountain.

2023 was our largest year of guest group and retreat attendance since pre-pandemic. It is great to see many groups return and continue to provide hospitality for their events. In addition to meeting our longtime groups, we welcomed many new groups and continue to receive inquiries for new bookings. Our potential for growth, with an increase in income, is exciting.

Lastly, I thank my fellow CRM leadership and our Board of Directors for their leadership and support this year. They have been gracious in welcoming me, guiding me through our staff transition, and seeking what our future can encompass. Their support and relationship is a foundation for the next era of Potosi Pines.

Peace,

Jessi Persson  
Director, Potosi Pines

## LIFE IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE OF MINGUS

Rachel Mosher, Youth and Common Grounds Coordinator at St. Marks UMC in Tucson, has been a part of the Mingus Mountain community since before she was born. Her extended family bonded through camping at Mingus. Her older brother attended camp at Mingus in the 1970s, and she started attending in 1994.

Because of the formative influence on her life, Rachel is committed to ensuring that her children, Eli and Norah, also grow up connected to Mingus. In January 2023, Rachel collected her kids and a group of youth from her church and brought them up the mountain for Winter Camp. It had been a while since the youth had been able to get away together, and Rachel knew they were ready to have this dedicated time in this sacred space to connect with a larger community. Meanwhile, Eli was hoping for a fun time with friends and meeting other

people, and Norah was looking for snow. And, wow, did all their hopes get fulfilled!

All three Moshers reflect that God is felt in various ways at Mingus. Norah

shares that she was nervous the first time she went down the zipline. Still, when one of the facilitators affirmed her, she realized she was seen and experienced God's presence. Additionally, Norah reflects on how special it is to expand her friendship circle—making new friends with people that don't share the same clique. Eli shares that the campfire experiences have been super important to him and that experiencing new activities and building new relationships is where God comes to life. Rachel shares that the view of the stars on a clear night brings it all home for her (continued on page 14),



## 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.**

**Q:** What year was this written in VRUMC's *The Messenger* newsletter?

"We have been talking about it forever, and we have been putting up with the congestion in the meantime, but can you believe this? The City of Mesa has finally approved this project! Specifically, it provides for a median cut-through on Main Street which will allow eastbound traffic to turn into our vacant property, which will lead to a driveway connected to both our back or north parking area and a separate driveway connecting with the north side of our medical building property."

**A (and some facts!):** March 2002. The article was written by Marv Harmsen. After various bids, the "driveway/median cut-through project"

finally began. Equipment arrived in August, and per Marv's September 2002 newsletter article, "We now have an asphalt driveway through the vacant property. Also in place is a deceleration lane allowing westbound traffic to enter our new driveway... The curbing has been removed in the median, all plants have been cleared and initial PVC pipe laid for new landscaping and one of the streetlights needs to be removed. Barring further rain delays, we can expect the project to be complete by the end of next month!"

The October 2002 newsletter announced that the new driveway and median cut-through was complete.



## 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**



- ◆ Spirit of Joy UMC, Coolidge
- ◆ St. Paul's UMC, Globe
- ◆ Sun Lakes UMC

## The Green Team

HURRAY FOR EARTHDAY.ORG...

EarthDay.org has a project they call "The Canopy Project".

Here's their story: Since 2010 EarthDay.org has planted tens of millions of trees with the Canopy Project. Since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the worlds forests have lost about 20% of their coverage. Approximately 18 million acres of forest are lost every year, and roughly half of the Earths Tropical forests have already been cleared.

EarthDay.org recognizes that planting billions of trees across the World is one of the largest and most economical ways of taking CO2 out of the atmosphere to tackle the climate crisis.

Not only do forests act as a carbon sink but they also provide vital habitat for animals and

ecological services for humans such as purifying the air we breathe and regulating local temperatures.



Responsible reforestation projects can stabilize land from erosion or natural disasters, improve soil health and ground water recharge. They can also promote native and endemic fauna and provide economic development for nearby communities.

So here's what WE need to do: PLANT A TREE!!! Remember Arbor Day is coming up so what a perfect time to go a planting.

Lots more on the subject of trees in future Vision articles, stay tuned.



## Desert Southwest Camp and Retreat Ministries Updates, cont.

"All the stars you don't see when you're in the city."

**Ultimately, all three agree life is different because of Mingus.**

From the opportunity to step away from the ordinary world to the excitement and gift of meeting new people. From how Mingus has shaped their family history to the chance to grow their own stories at camp. From shedding some personal hang-ups to growing a new understanding of themselves and their relationship with God.

It's obvious to the Moshers that even if someone

is nervous or unsure of attending, the worst that happens is they spend a week having fun. And the best is that Mingus offers children, youth, and even adults the chance to understand themselves in a new way, to grow deeper in faith, and to do so without the world's pressures.

\* \* \*

To read the full Desert Southwest Camp and Retreat Ministries 2023 Annual Impact Report, go to <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fBo34EUiKc-wgaBzt0BylQ8RDD5flcN/view>.

To support Desert Southwest Camp and Retreat Ministries, go to: <https://dscumc.org/camps-and-retreats/>.



## BIRTHDAYS



Marty Oldham	3/1
Beccie Reed	3/4
Esther Phillips	3/6
Janet Schiltz	3/7
Sulia Kaipelea	3/10
Ann Gamertsfelder	3/13
Anjuliet Walsh	3/13
Kay Johnson	3/15
Ron Roberts	3/21
Nisi Kaipelea	3/23
Lynda Boysen	3/24
Anne Marie Griffiths	3/24



## ANNIVERSARIES



David and Mary Killgrove	3/9
Robert and Patricia Mayhall	3/20



## IN LOVING MEMORY



Lois Brady — December 30, 2023  
 Sharon Mulligan — February 16, 2024  
 Edna "Louise" Post — February 16, 2024

# Easter Sunrise Service



Velda Rose UMC and Grace UMC will join together for a breathtaking Sunrise Easter Service at 6:00 am on March 31.

Worship will be outdoors at Alta Mesa Park, between Brown & McKellips on Alta Mesa (56th St).

Everyone is invited to come and bring friends and family.

Rev. Dr. Khalif Smith, Conference Director of Connectional Ministries will be preaching. Come and join in praise as the sun rises on Easter and the glory of the Resurrection!



# 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](http://veldarose.org)  
or on Facebook at [facebook.com/veldaroseumc](https://facebook.com/veldaroseumc)

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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

**Wandering Heart**  
Figuring out faith with Peter

**MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00 PM**  
(INCLUDES HOLY COMMUNION)  
Wandering Heart: Stations of Peter  
“Streams of Mercy”

**GOOD FRIDAY**  
Wandering Heart:  
Silent Meditation & Labryinth

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY 9:30 AM**  
(INCLUDES HOLY COMMUNION)  
Wandering Heart: “And I Hope”

**VELDA ROSE**  
*United Methodist Church*

**60<sup>TH</sup>**  
**ANNIVERSARY**

**Homecoming**  
**Sunday**  
with  
**Hymn Sing**  
& **Potluck**  
**April 7 at 9:30 am**

Items considered for the April Vision must be submitted to [officeadmin@veldarose.org](mailto:officeadmin@veldarose.org) by **Tuesday, March 12, 2024.**