

# The Vision

Volume 16, Issue 10

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

October 2023

## Food for the Body and Soul: Holy Ground By Pastor Ann

"I worship in God's cathedral."

"I find God outside when I'm \_\_\_\_\_  
(skiing, biking, hiking, etc.), not in church."

How many times have I heard this kind of thing?

Often.

And usually in response to my asking someone if they go to church or when I invite them to join in worship. And I can admit that my general response (internally, never

said out loud) is that this is a cop-out for people who don't want to go to church. But that's probably my own bias as the pastor of a brick-and-mortar church.

After all, scripture is full of people, patriarchs and matriarchs and saints of all sorts, who find God or experience God in nature: Noah in the flood; Hagar at the spring; Moses and the burning bush; Moses on Mt. Sinai, the Israelites in the wilderness when God provided a cloud by day and a pillar of fire at night for guidance, and manna and quail for food, Elijah in the cave when God came in the silence, just to name a few. Even Jesus went **outside** when he wanted to be with God, whether it was to a mountain to be alone or the garden of Gethsemane to pray with his disciples as witnesses (albeit sleepy ones). And it was in Jesus' interaction with nature in calming the storm that caused his disciples to ask the question, "what kind of man is this?" alluding to the fact that Jesus was NOT an ordinary man but was also divine.

Scripture begins with the creation of all of nature as the work of God. So, it is not surprising or wrong or less than, for people to find God in nature. In fact, scripture

encourages us to see nature as a message from or a way to know God. Psalm 19 says:

<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech,

nor are there words;

their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth  
and their words to the end of the world.

This October, our Wednesday morning online Bible study and meditation will look at what creation has to teach us about God as we embark on a new study, "We Are Standing on Holy Ground." It is appropriate as we head towards Thanksgiving, that we look at all that God has given to us in this amazing world. All around us is evidence of God's love and blessing.

In keeping with the theme of "Holy Ground," This month's recipe on page 2 pays homage to the bountiful gifts of the earth and reminds us of the sacred connection we have with nature. This Heavenly Harvest Salad is not only delicious but also a celebration of the blessings bestowed upon us.



# Heavenly Harvest Salad



## Ingredients:

- 4 cups mixed greens (lettuce, spinach, arugula)
- 1 cup roasted butternut squash, cubed
- 1 cup pomegranate seeds
- 1/2 cup candied pecans (see below)
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup dried cranberries
- 1/4 cup balsamic vinaigrette dressing
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder

## Candied Pecans Ingredients:

- 1 cup pecan halves
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon water
- A pinch of salt

## Instructions:

### 1. Roast the Butternut Squash:

- Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C).
- Toss the cubed butternut squash with a little olive oil, salt, pepper, cayenne and garlic powder.

- Spread the squash on a baking sheet and roast for about 20-25 minutes or until it's tender and slightly caramelized. Let cool.

### 2. Prepare Candied Pecans:

- In a non-stick pan, combine the sugar, water, and a pinch of salt over medium heat.
- Add the pecan halves to the pan and stir continuously.

- Continue to cook until the sugar has completely melted and coats the pecans in a golden caramelized glaze.

- Transfer the candied pecans onto parchment paper to cool, then break them into small pieces.

### 3. Assemble the Salad:

- In a large salad bowl, combine the mixed greens, roasted butternut squash, pomegranate seeds, candied pecans, crumbled feta cheese, and dried cranberries.

### 4. Dress the Salad:

- Drizzle the balsamic vinaigrette dressing over the salad.
- Gently toss the salad to evenly distribute the dressing and ingredients.
- Season with additional salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste, if desired.

- 5. Serve and Enjoy:** Share this Heavenly Harvest Salad with your church community, friends, or family, and remind everyone of the beauty of God's creation and the blessings of the earth.

## Office Update



### New Office Hours Starting October 1

**Mondays — Thursdays  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.**

**The office will be closed on Fridays.**

# Trustee News

## LEASING/INCOME PRODUCING OPPORTUNITIES



In addition to updating our campus with security cameras and maintaining and updating our landscaping, etc., the Governing Board, as trustees of Velda Rose UMC, are looking at new income-producing opportunities involving leasing parts of our property.

The first opportunity is with a company looking to build a cell tower on a corner of the empty lot on the western edge of our property. The terms of this lease are still in negotiation and we are fine-tuning the terms of the lease. The second opportunity is a preschool business that is interested in renting our nursery building. In order to offer the nursery building for rent, we have been painting and updating the building so it is ready to provide care and shelter for children. The building has already passed inspection by the Fire Marshall. The Preschool will have to be licensed by the Arizona Department of Childcare, which may require additional

minor repairs or changes to the building. We hope to present this second opportunity at our Church Conference on October 16.

We are also having discussions with 'Circle the City' and 'Family Promise' nonprofits about the possibilities of long-term leases on portions of our vacant lots for them to build a medical rehabilitation center and 6 to 12 small single story affordable rental homes. Initially it appeared that the Family Promise opportunity would move forward quickly, possibly even coming to the church for a vote in early October. For business reasons, Family Promise decided to take a more measured approach to developing a project in Mesa.

We believe that these opportunities will provide additional revenue to support our ministry and expand our connections to the community. Be assured, members of the Governing Board, as trustees are continuing to research and pursue opportunities to develop our property in ways that are consistent with our mission, will be of service and value to Mesa, and fiscally responsible. We hope to have final terms for some of these opportunities to present at the Church Conference on October 16, 2023.



## ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE, 10/16 at 3 pm ...AND PIE?

### PIE? DID SOMEONE SAY PIE? YES! WHY NOT?

On October 16, 2023, at 3 pm, Velda Rose UMC will hold its annual church conference for the purposes set forth in Paragraph 247 of the *Book of Discipline* of The United Methodist Church. This meeting is part of our connective link with the general church, represented by our DS Rev. Melissa Rynders. Everyone is welcome and all members have voice and vote. We will look at the mission and ministry of Velda Rose UMC, including, but not limited to our mission statement, new ways that we can enhance our ministry and impact in our community, adoption of goals and objectives for the new year, and the election of

leaders. We anticipate also voting on trustee issues, such as possible leases that will provide additional resources to support our ministry. The meeting will last about an hour, with the regular monthly Governing Board meeting to follow. (Note: SPRC will meet at 2 pm that day.)

If that all sounds a little dry—well, that's why there's pie! Because what could be better than gathering with our siblings in Christ to plan ministry and to share some delicious pie? If you have a favorite pie to share, sign up to bring it and join us for the Church Conference in Moore Hall.



# VRUMC Food Pantry: Serving 85205 for Over 30 Years

ACCORDING TO THE 2021 CENSUS, the 85205 zip code covers 10 square miles and has a population of 44,000+. Over 11% are below the poverty line. Of those 11%, 21% are under 18 years old, and 8% are seniors.\*

The Velda Rose United Methodist Church Food Pantry provides non-perishable food items every 15 days to those seeking assistance. Thanks to you, Velda Rose UMC, *and* members of the community, we continue to serve after more than 30 years.

## Our current Food Pantry needs are:



- ⇒ Peanut Butter
- ⇒ Spaghetti & Canned Spaghetti Sauce
- ⇒ Canned meats
- ⇒ Canned vegetables (all kinds)
- ⇒ Granola bars
- ⇒ Canned fruit
- ⇒ Canned beans (all

kinds)

- ⇒ Pudding cups
- ⇒ Jelly / Jam
- ⇒ Canned soups (vegetable beef, chicken noodle & tomato)
- ⇒ Saltines

## HOLIDAY BAGS FOOD DRIVE

In addition to our regular items, we also give out a holiday bag consisting of:



- ⇒ Canned Ham
- ⇒ Pie shells: graham or cookie crusts (not raw nor frozen)
- ⇒ Canned pie filling
- ⇒ Jiffy cornbread mix
- ⇒ Canned yams or sweet potatoes
- ⇒ Canned mixed vegetables (green beans, peas or corn)
- ⇒ Dry potato boxes or packets (scalloped, mashed potatoes—various flavors)
- ⇒ Canned cranberry sauce
- ⇒ Stuffing mix

You may donate directly to the Food Pantry Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, at the church office Mondays through Thursdays from 9 AM to Noon, or on Sundays in the shopping cart in the Sanctuary lobby.

\*[85205 - Profile data - Census Reporter](#)

# September Blood Donation Update



A big thank you to everyone who donated blood last month. The Red Cross collected 13 units of blood—that's at least 13 lives saved! 8 of those were type O, the universal donor.

Over our four blood drives this past year, the Red Cross has collected 85 units of blood. That's a lot of lives saved! Our next blood drive is December 17<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Ann already has her appointment. Make your appointment today.

# New Worship & Study Series: Bible Stories for Grown-Ups



How many of each kind of animal did Noah take on the ark?

Hint: "2" is not the answer.



What is the point of the story about Jonah? Hint: It's not about the fish.

You may have learned about Noah or Jonah or Zacchaeus as a child, but have you studied them recently? It should not come as a surprise that what we teach children about Bible stories is not all there is to learn from them. Much the way math taught to children is simplified so they can understand it, what children are taught about the Bible is also simplified. Sadly, unlike math, which we continue to study into high school and often beyond learning ever more complex concepts, many of the Bible stories taught to children are not studied as adults. Worse yet, even if they are studied, they may not be studied in more detail and the complexities of the stories may remain a mystery.

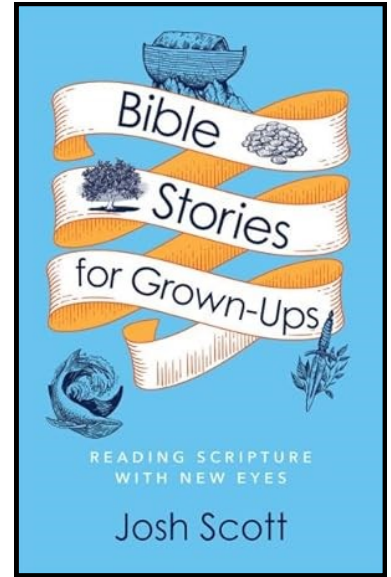
In this series, we will look at what may be familiar Bible stories but from an adult perspective. In the process, we will see that these stories have much to teach us about our faith, about God, and even about ourselves. The worship series will begin on October 8 and run through

November.

The Wednesday afternoon study (4 pm) with Pastor Ann, based on the book by Josh Scott, will start on October 4, in Martin Hall (AC permitting) with dinner to follow at 5:30. The class and dinner are free. An optional \$15 donation will offset the cost of the book, which will be available the first day of class. A goodwill offering will be taken to help offset the cost of the supplies for the dinner. We are accepting volunteers who will cook.

Please sign up in advance, so we can be sure to have enough books and enough food for everyone.

All are welcome.



## October Sunday and Wednesday Morning Services

### OCTOBER 1ST

*The Table of Joy*  
Philippians 2: 1-13;  
Matthew 21:23-32  
Pastor Ann

### OCTOBER 15TH

*Preventing the Flood:  
The Noah Story*  
Selected passages Gen. 6-8  
Pastor Chan

### OCTOBER 29TH

*It's Not About the Fish:  
The Story of Jonah*  
Jonah 1-4 (selected verses)  
Pastor Ann

### OCTOBER 8TH

*Flannelgraphs, Mrs. Burger (and  
Mr. Brown) & Grown-Up Lenses*  
2 Tim. 3:14-17;  
1 Cor. 13:8-13; Ps. 119  
Pastor Ann

### OCTOBER 22ND

*A New Vision of God:  
The Binding of Isaac*  
Genesis 22:1-19  
Pastor Ann

### 10:00 AM WEDNESDAY ONLINE DEVOTION

- 10/4 - *Holy Gift*: Gen 1:26-31
- 10/11 - *Holy Ground*: Is. 52:6-7;  
Ex. 3:1-6
- 10/18 - *Holy Water*:  
Prov. 8:1-3; 22-31;  
Mark 1:4-12
- 10/25 - *Holy Creatures*  
Romans 1:20-21;  
Job 12:7-10

# United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH STARTS FALL PROGRAMS

### UWF Unit Meeting on

**October 5 at 11:30 am in Moore Hall:** All women are invited to attend the first United Women in Faith unit meeting of the Fall. Our speaker will be from Hope Women's Center, which is a faith based, non-profit organization that provides vulnerable women and teen girls with education, mentoring, and support. Come and hear how funds raised through our bi-yearly rummage sales are used to help support this worthy cause. Please bring your own brown bag lunch to this meeting. Our potluck lunches will begin again at our November unit meeting. Come join us in fellowship!



## NURSE EMERGENCY FUND 2023 MISSION PROJECT - sponsored by United Women in Faith (Written by Billie Larime, Mission Coordinator for Nurse Emergency Funds)

For many years the United Women in Faith have supported five Low-Income Public Schools in the Mesa Area with Nurse Emergency Funds at the beginning of each new school year. This year, with the help of Karen Taylor and Billie Larime, the following schools received a total of \$2,500 worth of gift cards and supplies: Jefferson, Stevenson, Salk, Taft, and Sousa. The types of supplies requested vary each year because of changes in the school population and what is happening in the economy. This year we had requests for water bottles, nutritious snacks, underwear for both sexes, large band aids, Gatorade, disinfectant wipes, ace bandages, flushable wipes, sugar-free Jello, paper

towels, and juice boxes. Karen Taylor and Billie Larime worked at least 20 hours shopping together and delivering the products needed by the Five Elementary Schools. As in the past, one of the priorities of United Women in Faith is to serve children and families in our local community.

Thank you to all the Mission Warehouse Rummage Volunteers that participate in our two annual Rummage Sales in October and February yearly. Thank you to the Velda Rose UMC congregation for donating recyclable clothing, furniture and a variety of tools and miscellaneous materials that we can sell. You all help make possible our Mission donations to our local community, and to our State and Methodist International Mission Projects by your participation.



## EAST DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CELEBRATION

All women of Velda Rose United Women in Faith are invited to attend the

East District Celebration on October 14 at 8:00 a.m. at Cross of the Desert UMC in Phoenix. Come celebrate with other United Women in Faith members and be renewed. We'll learn ways that we can make a difference, increase member involvement and spiritually enlighten our souls. Contact Mary Killgrove to register for this event. Let's enjoy this time of celebration and reflection together!



## RESPONSE (the magazine of women in mission) September/October 2023 edition

The concept of hospitality is fundamental in both the Hebrew Bible and New Testament. The Bible Study entitled

## United Women in Faith, continued

"*Entertaining Angels (with Coffee)*" in the September/October 2023 edition discusses how hospitality creates spaces of belonging. The study focuses on Genesis 18:1-15, which is the story of three men who visit Abraham as he is sitting at the entrance of his tent. Abraham immediately bows to them and offers them great hospitality by serving them food to refresh them before they continue on with their journey. Later, it is revealed that the three men are representatives of God who promise Abraham and Sarah that they will have a son within a year despite the fact that Sarah is of advanced age. But the story begins with the hospitality that Abraham provides. He welcomes the three strangers, gives them water and food, a place to rest, and all without expecting anything in return. Hospitality involves opening our hearts, homes, churches, and lives to others, especially those who are unfamiliar or different from us. "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that

some have entertained angels without knowing it." – Hebrews 13:2.

### OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

**October 19 at 1:00 pm:** First session of Counteracting Bias workshop in Moore Hall

**October 26-28 at 7:00 am:** Annual Fall Rummage Sale

**October 28 at 9:00 am:** United Women in Faith Annual Celebration at Dayspring UMC

**November 2 at 11:30:** November Velda Rose UWF unit meeting. The speaker will be from Wesley Community & Health Centers.

**November 16 at 1:00 pm:** Second session of Counteracting Bias workshop in Moore Hall

*We believe love in action can change the world!*

*Mary Killgrove, President of Velda Rose United Women in Faith*

## United Women in Faith Stocking Project



CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOONER than we think. Again, we are accumulating items to fill 500 Christmas stockings for children at 4 local schools. As you travel, please save those unused lotions, shampoos, conditioners

and soaps. When you go to the dentist, please ask for extra toothpaste and tooth brushes. McDonald happy meal toys are great for stocking stuffers. We appreciate your support to make less fortunate children have a merrier Christmas.

### Our total list of items needed are as follows:

Toothpaste and tooth brushes  
Small toys for stockings  
Cereal bars  
Crayons  
Lotions (travel size)

Small story books  
Shampoos and conditioners (travel size)  
Stuffed animals  
Soaps (travel size)  
Cash to purchase what we need  
Combs  
Coloring Books  
Individually wrapped Candies (no chocolate)

**Right now we really need** coloring books (450), soaps (150), small stuffed animals (about 200 more), cereal bars (2000), and candy (lots).

If it seems like a lot, we are helped by the Women of Faith budget, but all you can do helps. Thank you.

If you have questions, please contact Arlene Oisten. Items can be left at the rummage building during the week, marked for the Christmas Stocking Project.

# October 26-28 Rummage Sale



**PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE...The Rummage sale is coming on October 26-28!**

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 October 2023

**September 30 (Friday)** last day for getting a large item picked up. Call David S. and leave a message being sure to include name and phone number.

**October 2** Workers need to be sure to wear their badge when coming into the building

**October 2-6** (7 a.m. to 10 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.

**October 16 (Monday)** Last day to drop off items.

**October 17 (Tuesday) Pre-Sale Meeting for all workers, 10 a.m. in Moore Hall.**

**October 9-20** is for workers only and workers can buy.

**October 24 (Tuesday)** 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.

**October 23, 24, and 25** 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 needed on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> with cleaning and arranging and pricing items coming out of the pods.

**October 28 (Saturday) after the Sale.** Help is needed in getting everything taken down and put back into the building.

**November 8 After-Action Meeting at 10 a.m. in Moore Hall**

We need people to help now in some departments. Hardware needs a couple of people who are knowledgeable about small items. Packaging and sorting small items like screws, nails, nuts and bolts, etc. This is work that can be done sitting down.

## Furniture Reduction Sale

The rummage sale has a lot of nice furniture. If you are in need of furniture, please check out the rummage sale from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Monday through Friday. Last day to shop for furniture before the sale is Friday, October 7. If you are coming to shop for furniture, be sure to enter through the sorting room, not through the large garage door. You will need to pick up a "Visitor" badge in the sorting room and turn it back in when you leave the building.

## Rummage Pre-Sale Meeting

Mark your calendar. The pre-sale meeting for rummage sale workers is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17, 10 a.m.** in Moore Hall. This meeting should last about an hour or less. Workers, **please** try to attend.

## Department Chairpersons Needed

**Men's Wear** needs a department chairperson. Several workers help out in this department but a person is needed to oversee the department and work on organization of the department.



## Rummage Sale, continued

**Hardware Department**—A chairperson needs to work in the area on a regular basis and be able to work with other volunteers who want to help in the area. Some knowledge of hardware would be helpful.

Please prayerfully consider trying to help cover some of these areas. Perhaps you know a person or persons who would be a good worker; the person does not need to be a members of Velda Rose UMC. The sale chairperson cannot cover all these areas. We can use workers during the sale in many departments. Contact Joan/Tim Most if you can help or know some people who would be willing to help.

### **Tent Set-Up Help Needed and Help to Unload the Pods**

Tuesday, October 24, 8:00 a.m., help is needed to get the tents set up for the sale. Many hands make light work. Please show up on Tuesday, October 24. Once

the tents are set up then the pods need to be unloaded of the stuff that will sell outside. We can also use people to help clean and price the items that come out of the pods.

### **Saturday After the Sale**

We need help on Saturday, October 28 after the sale. The sale ends at 3 p.m.; however, we start about 2 p.m. trying to move some things back into the building and to take down some of the tents should we be able to empty the areas.

### **After-Action Meeting**

We always need to discuss how the sale went, where improvements can be made, suggestions for changes, etc. That meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 8**, at 10 a.m. in Moore Hall.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO IMPROVE YOUR COMPUTER SKILLS?** Justa Center is offering free classes on Wednesday mornings at 9 am, 1001 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, 85007. Virtual options are available.

10/04/23: Exploring and Downloading Apps Workshop

10/22/23: Mobile Health Apps Lecture

Classes are sponsored by AARP through their Senior Planet Oats Program.

Current flyer is available in the office. To learn more, contact Justa Center at (602) 254-6524.



## The Green Team



WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE BAGS AND WRAPS AFTER THEY ARE RECYCLED?

After they are collected at a Store Drop Off location, your

bags, wraps, and film recycles might get recycled into

synthetic lumber for decking or park benches, or they might be recycled directly into another bag. They are producing more and more all the time. The list could be endless. So remember to recycle, recycle, recycle. A lot of businesses have store drop off bins available.

# United Methodist Men

THE VELDA ROSE UMMM TEAM will once again operate the food concession in support of the UWF Rummage Sale, 26-28 October.

Coffee and assorted donuts will be sold each morning, starting at 6:30.

Sloppy Joe sandwich meals will go on sale mid-morning. The meal will consist of a hot sandwich, bag of chips, two cookies, and choice of soda, coffee, lemonade, iced tea, or

bottled water. If you would like to volunteer to help in the food booth, see Tim Most or Jim Price.



Our next monthly meeting will be held on 6 Nov, 11:00-12:30, in Martin Hall. Stop by for some fellowship, enjoy a light lunch, and learn about some of the missions we participate in.

Lee Nixon, Acting President

## Implicit Bias Training October 19 & November 16

IF YOU ARE OUT WALKING and you happen upon a bear, or a mountain lion, how would you react? When you see a traffic light turn red, what do you do? Do you think about it first? Did you know that roughly a third of America's CEOs are taller than 6'2" even though a very small percentage of the population is that height or more? The same phenomenon with U.S. Presidential Candidates – statistically, throughout history, the taller candidate has a better chance of winning. These are all examples of implicit bias.



The fact is, we can all see things differently. In this famous illusion, some see an old woman, and some a young one. It depends on our bias, and sometimes our perspective.

Back in the '90s, a couple of psychologists named Mahzarin Banaji and Anthony Greenwald coined the term implicit bias when they theorized that social behavior is largely influenced by unconscious associations and judgments. Implicit bias (aka unconscious bias) is the automatic associations and

assumptions we make about other people without even thinking about it.

The trouble with implicit bias is that our automatic assumptions influence the way we treat people, often in unfair ways. Becoming aware of our implicit bias is an important step in growing to love our neighbors the way Jesus loves.

You are invited to learn about the unconscious associations and judgments you make about other people and the world in the upcoming workshop, "Counteracting Bias: Seeing People as They Are," sponsored by Velda Rose United Women in Faith. The four-hour Implicit Bias Training will be broken into two 2-hour sessions, the first on October 19, and the second on November 16, both from 1-3 pm.

Please contact Mary Killgrove or the Velda Rose UMC office at 480-832-2111 if you would like to register for this workshop. Sign-up sheets will also be available on Sundays in the Library and Sanctuary before and after Sunday worship and in the Velda Rose UMC office Monday - Thursday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Everyone is encouraged and welcome to attend!

# 2023 Mission Project News

VIA BILLIE FIDLIN,  
Director of  
Outreach &  
Justice for the  
Desert Southwest  
Conference

## RIP MEDICAL

**DEBT** Recently I  
heard from our  
contact at **RIP  
Medical Debt**,  
Rihana Joseph. As

promised, she was contacting me about the resulting  
stats from our Annual Conference Mission Offering  
to **RIP Medical Debt**.

With so many blessings – I am pleased to report that  
our donations resulted in abolishing a total  
of **\$1,934,362.83** amount of debt for **1,488** people  
throughout the entire geographic area of the Desert  
Southwest Conference.

This support is phenomenal and as always the  
generosity of our Conference shines. Thank you for  
your donations and prayers!

Should your church wish to continue this effort  
independent of the Annual Conference offering,  
please contact Rihana  
at [rihana.joseph@ripmedicaldebt.org](mailto:rihana.joseph@ripmedicaldebt.org).

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**A THANK YOU TO ONE AND ALL** You'll remember that  
during Annual Conference our members wrote  
messages that were later sent to United Methodist  
Conferences around the world. This morning (August  
31st) we received a letter of thanks that we want to  
share with you. The hearts of our Conference  
continue to bless many, near and far.

*Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Desert Southwest  
Conference,*

*On behalf of Bishop Stefan Zürcher, who was newly  
elected bishop of the Central Conference of Central*



*and Southern  
Europe in  
November 2022, I  
would like to  
thank you for  
your kind letters  
that you have  
sent to the  
various Annual  
Conferences of  
our Episcopal*

*Area.*

*Thank you for this wonderful initiative and for  
providing the laity, clergy and staff of your Annual  
Conference with an opportunity to experience that  
the worldwide nature of our Church is not a  
theoretical concept that is just written in the Book of  
Discipline but something that can turn into an  
encouraging reality.*

*Thank you for your prayers, for your kind words, for  
your love.*

*We are living in challenging times – our Central  
Conference borders to both Ukraine (where still a  
terrible war is going on) and to Italy and Greece  
(where still dozens of refugees from Africa and the  
Middle East arrive daily – if they succeed in crossing  
the sea...). It remains our task to be a light of hope  
and love and to share the Gospel with words and  
deeds.*

*Thank you so much for your encouragement on this  
journey.*

*May God bless you and make you – through your  
initiatives and programs – a blessing to many.*

*Urs*

*Urs Schweizer*

*Assistant to Bishop Dr. Stefan Zürcher*

*The United Methodist Church*

*Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe*

# Backpacks For Our Young Asylum Friends



Via *Billie K. Fidlin, Director of Outreach & Justice for the Desert Southwest Conference*

AS YOU KNOW, our Conference engages in mission to people who are making the journey from around the globe, seeking asylum. Many people come to our ministries with their children. Parents are weary, and yet are busy with the details of upcoming travel once they arrive here. How wonderful it would be to help keep little – and not so little – hands busy while they attend to the many particulars at hand. This project is so needed! With over **1,000 children** seen at *The Inn* in July, and over **700** people at our *East District location* – these backpacks will be a blessing.

What follows is a list of supplies that can be used to compile backpacks for these young people. Much gratitude goes to our colleague in ministry, **Rev. Dr. Denyse Barnes** of the *Cal-Pac Conference* who compiled this list. Note that these are suggestions; you can add what you like. All items are available from Amazon.com, purchased in quantity, that can then be broken down per backpack. For example, putting 5 crayons into a small, plastic bag, or another example: one sharpened pencil and 6 stickers per backpack – you get the idea.

## Further Information

For anyone wishing to donate to *The Inn (South District)* – please contact [Gretchen Lopez](mailto:gretchen.lopez@theinnofsa.org) at [gretchen.lopez@theinnofsa.org](mailto:gretchen.lopez@theinnofsa.org) for any questions you have or regarding delivery.

For those of you wishing to donate to our *East District Asylum* work – please contact [Sepi Vaiomounga](mailto:sepi.vaiomounga@gmail.com) at

[sepi.vaiomounga@gmail.com](mailto:sepi.vaiomounga@gmail.com) for any questions you have or regarding delivery.

## Supply List

Backpacks (Nylon Drawstring Sport Bag, 40 pcs)

## Ideas For Younger Children

- ◆ Notepads (Lined Bulk 60 Pack Mini Journal, 3.5" x 5.5" 30 Sheets/60 Pages)
- ◆ Pencils and Sharpeners
  - Pencils (50 Pack Assorted Colorful with Cartoon Animal Eraser Toppers)
  - Pencil Sharpeners (72 Pack Manual Sharpener with Cap, assorted colors)
- ◆ Crayons and Bags to put them in: (We put in three per backpack.)
  - Crayons (Crayola Box Collection, Bulk, Ages 3+)
  - Bags (Ziploc Paper, Recyclable & Sealable with Fun Designs)
- ◆ Stress Strips (Stress Releasing Strips, Gradient Styles, Stickers, 50 Pieces)
- ◆ Postcards for welcome notes (Junkin 80 Pack Hello Postcards, 4 x 6 inch)
- ◆ Coloring Books (28 Pcs with Unicorn, Mermaid, Alpaca Design 5.2" x 7.13")
- ◆ Slap Bracelets (50 Pcs Wristbands with varying designs)

## Toys

- ◆ Goodie Bag Toys (57 Pcs Bulk Toys, Gift Bag Fillers for Ages 3-9)
- ◆ Party Favors (Kids 3-5, 4-12, Goodie Bag Stuffers, 90 Count)
- ◆ Squishy Toys (48 Pcs, Squeeze Mochi with Water Beads)
- ◆ Stickers (600 Pcs Cute Vinyl Stickers for Water Bottles, Laptops, Skateboards)

## Ideas for Older Children and Teens

- ◆ Bracelets
  - Inspirational (Rubber Bracelets)
  - Friendship Bracelets (216 Adjustable Paracord Woven Neon Colors)

(Continued on page 13)

## Join the DSC Personnel Committee

THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE of the Desert Southwest Conference is looking for new Clergy and Lay members to join the committee. Members of the committee will assist in reviewing Conference policy and procedures, including making recommendations on how to improve policies and procedures at the Conference.



### *Service Expectations Include:*

- Attend and participate in meetings.
- General Human Resources oversight, including, but not limited to:
  - \* Recruitment
  - \* Performance Reviews
  - \* Compensation
  - \* Employee Relations
  - \* Recruitment of Personnel Committee members, as needed.

Go to [dscumc.org/get-involved-form/](http://dscumc.org/get-involved-form/) if you would like to apply.

## Prayer

*Prayer*

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

Central UMC, Phoenix

Crossroads UMC, Phoenix

Desert Foothills UMC, Phoenix



## Backpacks For Our Asylum Friends, continued



- ◆ Stickers (500 Pcs Cute Stickers, Vinyl for Kids Teens, Waterproof)
- ◆ Notepads (50 Pcs Inspirational Boho Mini Notebooks Pocket Journal)
- ◆ Stress Balls (36 Pcs Star Mini Foam, Gold, Smile, 1.6")
- ◆ Fidget Toys (100 Pcs Random Color Mini Pop Keychain Silicone Squeeze)
- ◆ Zip-up bags (50 Pcs You Are Amazing Rainbow, Inspirational, Waterproof)
- ◆ Beanies (48 Pack Kids, Winter Beanies, Bulk)
- ◆ Toiletries (Hotel Toiletries Bundle, Tropical Waterfall 200 Pcs, 50 4-piece sets)

# Desert Southwest UM Foundation Gift Planning



Rev. Diamond Pate, who pastors the Flagstaff Federated Community

Church, received a grant from the Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation to help defray the cost of participating in the Wesley Pilgrimage 2023. Approximately 40 clergy and lay leaders from across the US attended the 2023 gathering, designed to explore the history and founding of the Methodist movement in England.

Following the footsteps of John and Charles Wesley, the pilgrims visited the Wesley family birthplace in Epworth, ultimately traveling to Oxford, Bristol, and London. Throughout the ten-day spiritual journey – and after voluminous reading in preparation for the Wesley Pilgrimage – the group regularly learned from historians and theologians.

Perhaps the most powerful moment for Diamond came at Bristol, the site of the New Room, constructed after the floor collapsed in their borrowed meeting space. Seeing the space and learning about the trials of the movement at that time – which was out of step with the general practices of the era – led to her realization about the resilience of Methodism. Diamond noted, “Whatever hurdles we’re facing now we can still survive and seek revival today.”

She takes that inspiration and message back to her own congregation, where she can share the stories and connect them to that “Wesleyan energy.” And

she is extremely grateful for the Foundation’s grant. “The Foundation helped with travel costs not covered by the scholarship. I would not have been able to accept the scholarship without the grant from the Foundation.”

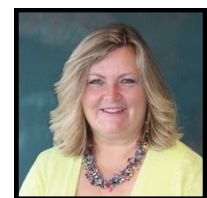


Helping inspire and support Methodist projects and support clergy is just part of what the Desert Southwest United

Methodist Foundation does in our ongoing quest to Do More Good.



Anne Green  
Executive Director  
602-798-8202  
[agreen@dsumf.org](mailto:agreen@dsumf.org)



COMING SOON

## Funeral Planning. Final Wishes.

These are uncomfortable topics for many people. But the old saying is true, you can’t avoid death or taxes. Velda Rose UMC can help you with both—we can help with taxes through gift planning (see above). And we can help with funeral planning. No one is born knowing how to plan a funeral or a memorial. It can be a burden on one’s family to figure it out while also grieving the loss of a loved one. One way we can care for our loved ones is to plan ahead. Velda Rose UMC wants to help you to prepare for the inevitable so your wishes can be honored and your family will know how you want to be remembered. Watch for details of a pre-planning program and luncheon in November.



Ron Fagerland	10/2	Louise Post	10/13
Sharon Mulligan	10/2	Mary Lou Monson	10/14
Mary McVeigh	10/3	Janet Laut	10/15
Mo Roslanic	10/5	Jean Brady	10/20
David Killgrove	10/7	Linda Norgaard	10/21
Cynthia Borneman	10/8	Irma Heasley	10/22
Phyllis McNeil	10/8	John Fleet	10/25
Phyllis Moun	10/8	Sione Kaipelea	10/25
Jonni Thomson	10/10	Fay Ganzerla	10/26
Crystal Williams	10/10	Grace Van Brunt	10/26
Jo Ann Malo	10/12	Pastor Ann Lyter	10/30
Meleseini Ika	10/13		



Donn and Deonna Larson	10/8	Richard and Deirdre Poyer	10/12
John and Nadine Burley	10/12	Dan and Jo Lynn White	10/23
Bill and Mary Lou Monson	10/12		

## In Loving Memory

*In  
Loving  
Memory*

Diane Fischer — August 20, 2023



# 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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## 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](https://facebook.com/veldaroseumc)

### Sunday Morning Services

9:30 AM

Online at [facebook.com/veldaroseumc](https://facebook.com/veldaroseumc)  
& in-person in the Sanctuary



## New Office Hours Starting October 1

Mondays — Thursdays,  
9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.  
On Fridays the office will be  
closed. Other hours by  
appointment only.



**WHEN:** 10/26/23 to 10/28/23

**TIME:** 7:00 am—3:00 pm  
1/2 price on Saturday

Items considered for the October Vision must be submitted to  
[officeadmin@veldarose.org](mailto:officeadmin@veldarose.org) by **Tuesday, October 10, 2023**.