

The Vision

Volume 15, Issue 12

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

December 2022

Food for the Body & Soul: Hot Diggity Dog!

By Pastor Ann

I READ AN ARTICLE THE OTHER WEEK about how it takes 400 repetitions for children to learn something in a conventional learning setting, and only 10-20 if the learning is through play. I thought, “Wow!” I began to think about seniors. I thought about seniors who seem to have aged dramatically, almost as if they aged 10 years during COVID. Was this seemingly rapid aging due to not playing? During lock down, we played less cards, danced less, and played less Monopoly and other board games. In short, for two years, adults didn’t play much. Did this contribute to aging, the failure to form new synapses to replace ones that were aging?

I thought, “what a great topic for my pastor’s column in December,” as we look toward Christmas, and the joy of children and spending time with family, which is when I play the most cards and board games. I began to imagine a program of “game days” when we could gather just to play games, maybe share lunch with childhood favorites like Hot Diggity Dogs, and enjoy fellowship. Just one problem, when I tried to verify the information, it turns out not to be true.

So instead of having a “fun” theory on why people aged so much during the COVID lockdown, and an idea for ministry, I found an example of something else—Desire Bias. Desire bias is the tendency of people to believe something because they WANT to believe it, even without or in contradiction to actual evidence. I wanted to believe play is important and that the rapid aging I observed had a potentially simple cause, and one that would be literally fun to counteract. But that was my bias, not fact.

We all have biases that help us with decision making and functioning in the world. Our biases come from our experiences, our education, and our culture. Biases make it possible for us to make decisions quickly and efficiently, most of the time. But at other times, our biases can cause harm to ourselves or others. In my case, wanting a simple answer might mean not finding a real or more comprehensive answer to what is a very real problem.

Last week I, along with 15 other pastors and lay people from our Conference, received training on bias, in preparation to train others. This is part of the work our Conference is doing to combat racism and raise awareness. This work promotes the vision of the *Missio Dei* (the vision of building up the Beloved Community as God’s mission in

the world), and fosters biblical & theological understating of inclusion and diversity as the work of ministry. The first step in this process was training on Cultural Competency, loosely defined as the ability to understand, appreciate and interact with people from different cultures or belief systems. Pastors and many churches undertook that training beginning late last winter. The training on bias, and especially implicit bias, is the second step. Understanding our own biases, where they come from and how they influence our decisions and our behavior, is an important step in treating people with respect. Unfortunately, if we do not examine our biases, especially our implicit biases, we may treat people unfairly or judge people as difficult or dramatic or less intelligent or lazy, simply because they are different from us. (Continued on page 2)



Food for the Body and Soul, continued

For example, my dad believed that if you weren't early, you were late. This is a common understanding of time among the Pennsylvania Dutch. My dad once left without picking me up after piano practice because I wasn't waiting by the curb for him at exactly 3:30. My piano teacher had not released me, but I was "late" and so he did another errand before coming back to get me, 30 minutes later. Other cultures look at time differently and a schedule is not as important as relationship. Many people from Latin America or the Pacific Islands would not leave one meeting or event until the social interaction was over, even if there was another meeting scheduled. Everyone in those cultures would understand that I was not late, just engaged with someone else.

Imagine someone who understands time the way my dad did, let's call him Frank. Also imagine someone who sees time as more fluid, let's call him Bob. If Bob frequently arrives to meetings after the assigned start time, Frank may judge Bob as lazy based on Frank's bias favoring promptness. Bob, in turn, might think Frank is uptight or rude. In many cases, it is our bias, not reality, which is the foundation of our thinking. And that can cause us to judge people unfairly and even in ways that are unintentionally racist.

I hope that everyone will have the opportunity to explore implicit bias. The training helps us learn how to love as Jesus loves and see all people as God sees them, as

HOT DIGGITY DOGS

ingredients :

- 1 tube of crescent rolls
- 8 hot dogs
- sliced American cheese

directions :

HEAT oven to 375°F (or 350°F for nonstick cookie sheet).

1. SLICE each hotdog lengthwise, creating a slit. Do not cut the hotdog in half.
2. CUT (or break) the sliced cheese into strips about the same size as the slit you cut into the hotdog.
3. STUFF the hotdogs with the cheese, filling the slit from end to end.
4. UNROLL dough; separate into triangles.
5. WRAP the hotdogs with the triangles, starting with wide end under the hotdog with the cheese up.
6. PLACE on ungreased cookie sheet; cheese up.
7. BAKE 9 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.



individuals made in the image of God, beloved, welcomed, and offered grace. Such understanding can help us go on to perfection.

And I still think game days are a good idea. Maybe there isn't a simple answer for why so many people seem to have aged, but that doesn't mean lack of fun is not part of the problem. Maybe the aging I recognized was a combination of lack of play, lack of socialization, lack of physical activity, change in eating habits, and stress from the pandemic. A game day including lunch could counter all of these things. If you think a game day is a good idea and would attend, let us know in the office and we will try to schedule one for January. In the meantime, I am attaching a recipe for a favorite childhood "fun" food—Hot Diggity Dogs. Enjoy! Pastor Ann

**SUNDAY
SERVICES**
9:30 AM
IN-PERSON & ONLINE

December 4

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

Nothing Is Impossible #morepeace

Luke 1:26-56

Pastor Daniel

December 11

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

Do Not Be Afraid #morejoy

Matthew 1:8-25

Pastor Ann

December 18

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

This Will Be a Sign #morelove

Luke 2:1-10

Pastor Ann

December 25

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

Entertaining Angels #morehospitality

Hebrews 13:1-2, Genesis 18:1-25

Pastor Ann

**WEDNESDAY
MORNING
DEVOTIONS**

Wednesday Mornings Online or in the Sanctuary at 10:00 AM

JOIN US IN PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS and the coming of the Christ Child as we focus on Angels Among Us. You are welcome to attend the recording of the online study, and be our "live studio audience." We will continue with Coffee, Tea and Conversation in the Library following the 10:00 AM Online Meditation to discuss the study and the sermon from the Sunday before. We anticipate gathering at around 10:30.

December 7

Isaiah 11:1-10

December 14

Isaiah 35:1-10

December 21

Isaiah 7:10-16

December 28

Matthew 2:1-12

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

December 21: Blue Christmas Service

In-person at 4:00 PM

For more information, please see page 5.

December 24: Christmas Eve Services

In-person at 4:00*, 7:00, & 11:00 PM

**This service will be livestreamed.
For more information, please see page 5.*

MARTIN LUTHER AND HIS LIKE-MINDED COLLEAGUES intended TO realign the church with the Bible. Martin Luther was concerned about the practice of selling plenary indulgences, which were basically authorized coupons alleging to reduce the temporal punishment in purgatory for offenses committed. So on October 31, 1517

Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the big bulky doors of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg.

There were many other religious practices that had become so popularly accepted by the religious institution of that day. This greatly concerned Luther and his colleagues because these beliefs and practices were no longer in alignment with the Bible. New and strange teachings had been introduced and he argued that the repentance Christ required for sins to be forgiven, required an inner spiritual repentance rather than merely external acts of confession. The purchasing of these "indulgences" (authorized coupons) discouraged Christians from giving to the poor and performing other acts of mercy, which he attributed to a belief that indulgence certificates were more spiritually valuable.

Hebrews 13:7-9a says *"Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings."* The reformers of the church remembered the ancient leaders of the church who faithfully spoke the Word of God, leaders like the Apostles, the Prophets, and Jesus himself. They sought to imitate the wisdom and faith of those ancient leaders, basing their doctrines on Scripture alone. They endeavored to eliminate from the church those strange teachings that had crept in. And, they reasserted the Biblical doctrine that we are saved by grace alone, through faith in the atoning sacrifice of

Christ upon the cross. Good works in the life of a Christian are necessary, but they are not necessary for salvation.

And lastly, for fun, I thought I would share with you something I read from Pastor N. Lawrence regarding *strange things*:



First, there is Thanksgiving on the last Thursday of the month. Families get together to enjoy each other's company and aren't we learning not to take that for granted anymore? Following Thanksgiving is "Black Friday," as stores entice shoppers to make that Christmas gift purchase

at a deeply discounted price. But, perhaps this year, some of those things will be a challenge even to buy! Then, we have "Small Business Saturday," as people are encouraged to shop local and support the "Mom and Pop" stores downtown. It's a great idea, but please, let's not let that happen only one day! Then, it's Sunday! Yes, Church is on Sunday between all of this, and it's important we take that time to be in the House of God together as His family!

Then, it's back to shopping on "Cyber Monday." Online business offers some of their best sales of the year, and you can snap up great bargains if you're quick enough!

Then, it's "Giving Tuesday"! This particular day has been somewhat of a new phenomenon in the past few years as people are encouraged to give to ministries, churches, non-profits, and more on this special day.

I've honestly wondered why the "Giving" day is after all the spending days. In my opinion, it should be first!

Blessings in Christ!

Worship in December + New Year's Day

ADVENT IS THE SEASON in the church when we prepare for Christmas and the coming of the Christ Child. Our Advent worship series is Angels Among Us. We are focusing on the angels of the Christmas story. Each time an angel appears in the Christmas stories, the angel says, "Do not be afraid." This is a message that we need in our world today. The world seems so full of reasons to fear: political unrest, COVID, flu, war, inflation, and the list goes on. So much seems uncertain. And the media plays into those fears more often than not. But the angels say, over and over again, "do not be afraid." If we take that message to heart, and if we share that message with our friends, our neighbors and the world, we will be helping to bring peace to those around us, and ultimately to earth. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring **#morehope**, **#morepeace**, **#morejoy**, and **#morelove** to the world. Because when those who spread hope, peace, joy and love are the angels among us.

Our Advent/Christmas season includes not just the four Sundays of Advent, but also Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We will have three services on Christmas Eve, at 4, 7, and 11 pm.



4 and 7 will be traditional services with carols, the Christmas story and candle

lighting. These are family friendly services with glow sticks for children, and a special treat as well. The 11 pm service will be a very special service in our Chapel, with music, Christmas meditation, candles and Holy Communion.

On Christmas Day, we will have worship at 9:30 am. On this special Sunday, you are invited to dress casually, wear your special Christmas sweater or even your PJs if you want!. Everyone is invited to bring one of their Christmas gifts for a special Blessing of the Gifts as we focus on **#morehospitality**. Part of our hospitality will include a special gift that we have for you!

Then on New Year's Day, we will gather again for worship and communion at 9:30 am as we finish our series on Angels Among Us and how we have **#morelife** when we listen to the angel's message to get up and go and **#DoNotBeAfraid**.

Blue Christmas Service — December 21, 2022, 4 pm

ARE YOU STRUGGLING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON? Are you feeling blue? Depressed? Struggling to find the holiday spirit?

"Have a holly, jolly Christmas," we hear. The radio, television, even church may be telling us that this is the happiest time of the year. Even in church, we are asked to sing, "Joy to the world." But, not everyone is joyful. There are many reasons why someone might struggle with depression or sadness during the holiday. If this is the first holiday season since the loss of a loved one, or if someone is struggling with

health or financial issues, the holidays can make those struggles seem even harder. It can feel like Christmas just isn't even happening.

But Christ came for exactly this moment, the moment of grief, the moment of need. "Come to me all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." Emmanuel, God With Us, is the ultimate gift from God to us in our time of need. Join us in the Chapel on December 21 at 4 pm for a very special service that gives us time to rest and to welcome the gift from God that Christmas represents.

United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God, and to experience freedom as

whole persons through Jesus Christ: to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

UWF DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE by Billie Larime

On October 29th, 2022, our Conference held a Celebration of speakers, communion, and a business meeting to elect their new officers for 2023. In attendance from Velda Rose UMC were Mary Killgrove (Secretary of Velda Rose UWF Unit) and Grace Van Brunt (Spiritual Growth of Velda Rose UWF Unit). Our own current President Billie Larime of the Velda Rose UWF Unit was elected to be the new Dean of Mission u 2023/2024. The Committee on Nominations has been working hard all summer to put together the slate of officers for 2013. We want to thank the women who have volunteered to serve United Women in Faith beyond their local church and district. Please keep these women in your prayers.

SUCCESSFUL MISSION WAREHOUSE RUMMAGE SALE IN OCTOBER by Manager Joan Most

Another record-breaking rummage sale was held at Velda Rose. Not only did we raise over \$120,000 in funds, over 200 workers shared the three-day event at the Mission Warehouse. THANK YOU to all the buyers and the sellers. We support many local, national, and international charitable organizations. Between rummage sales, once a year in February, we empty the Mission Warehouse and give away to charitable organizations (donations-in-kind) from the rummage items that were not sold. For instance: Sunshine Acres Store in Apache Junction received free books in February 2022 after the sale was over. Vietnam Veterans in cooperation with Big Brothers/Big Sisters received many boxes of rummage. House Of Refuge received men's and

women's clothing. Center for Help received children's and women's clothing. Purple Heart Thrift Shop got craft items. New Hope Community Center picked men's clothing, office supplies, Easter items, linens, and books. Navajo Airlift received fabric, used by Cholla Chapter of the Arizona Quilt Guild (which meets at Velda Rose UMC). Goodwill picked up free furniture, books, and hardware that was left over because we needed to get it out of the building between the February and October sales so that we can continue to serve the community that needs a place to donate secondhand goods. It is quite interesting watching all these groups get the items they need, and we achieve our goal by getting the building cleaned out. Be a rummage worker volunteer and get first pick of the new items as they come in.

MONEY MATTERS, BUT YOU MATTER MORE by June Hanson, treasurer of DSC UWF AND by Billie Larime

I just returned from the East District Annual Celebration. It was a joyful gathering that affirmed my faith and commitment to the United Women in Faith. Among the women there I found peace, affirmation, inspiration, love, and action plans—a place to serve Christ. I hope you were able to attend your district meeting too.

Mary Killgrove from Velda Rose UWF and Billie Larime from Velda Rose UMF attended and voted on the new officers for the East District. Billie Larime was part of the 3-person panel that presented their experiences attending the 2022 UWF Assembly. We had a great time meeting in person at Grace UMC of Mesa.

NEXT UNIT MEETING FOR DECEMBER 1ST, 2022 at Moore Hall

All women are invited to the Potluck Lunch at 11:30 a.m. Followed by "Hands of Joy" Christmas Singing and Signing. Pastor Ann will also give us a message of "Christmas Cheer".

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH.

Mission Highlight: Save the Family



UNITED
WOMEN IN
FAITH and
UNITED
METHODIST

MEN. MINISTRY. MISSION.

THE WOMEN AND MEN OF VELDA ROSE ARE THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE VELDA ROSE ADVENT CALENDAR for the collection of Baby Products to help our local "Save the Family", the charitable organization that has been in Mesa for over thirty years helping homeless families with housing, food, clothes and retraining for jobs.

You can support this ministry by following the Reverse Advent Calendar, or you can focus on just

Save the Family and collect the following items: Diapers (size 3,4,5), Baby wipes, Baby shampoo, Baby body wash, Baby lotion, Baby toys or books. United Women in Faith of Mesa has helped this year by donating 136 diapers to our Diaper Drive. In 2020 we collected over 1,500 diapers for "Save the Family". Help us break our record. Help the homeless babies of Mesa.

Billie Larime, President UWF

For more information about Save the Family, including ways to give, events, and more, go to savethefamily.org.

January Study—Take the Poll

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO STUDY in January? We want to teach what you would like to learn. So let us know! Fill out our poll and help decide what class we will offer on Wednesday afternoons. Paper polls will be available at the church. Or scan the QR code and fill out the poll online.

Possible classes include:

Faith Working through Love: Study major Christian teachings and practices, while highlighting the specific theological emphases or distinctive practices we follow as United Methodists.

Making Sense of the Bible: This study would look at how we understand the nature of scripture, how to interpret it, and how to turn to scripture for difficult or controversial issues.

Prayer and Meditation: We know we are supposed to pray, but how do we do it? Can we be better at prayer? Are there other ways to pray that might be beneficial? Each week will consider a different style or approach to prayer.

Courage: Jesus and the Call to Brave Faith: Challenging us to unlock the courage we already possess as followers of Christ. Begin to understand what true courage is and how God works in our lives when we exhibit a brave faith.

The 10 Commandments from the Back Side: While the 10 Commandments are known throughout the world, it's not often that we are offered a fresh take on them. Let's explore how these "prohibitive" laws actually are our dear friends, intended to make life richer and more fulfilling.

The last day to take the January Study poll is Sunday, December 18.



December Music Events



DECEMBER MUSIC EVENTS

TUESDAY, 12/6: ORPHEUS

SATURDAY, 12/10: RESONANCE

SUNDAY, 12/11: EAST VALLEY CHORALE

FRIDAY, 12/16: DESERT WINDS

TUESDAY, 12/6 AT 7:30 PM: ORPHEUS MALE CHORUS

presents our annual "Holidays with Orpheus: Celebrate the Season" concert series. We will premiere three pieces and feature traditional and contemporary holiday songs, including "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Jingle Bells," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" and "Light One Candle," a song popularized by Peter, Paul and Mary. We will also have our audience sing-a-long featuring everyone's favorite Christmas carols.

Tickets are on sale now at Orpheus.org.

SATURDAY, 12/10 AT 7:00 PM: RESONANCE VOCAL

ENSEMBLE presents "Ring Out! A Christmas Celebration". Songs include Carol of the Wind, Ding-a Ding-a Ding, Have a Holly Jolly Christmas, Here's My Christmas Wish, Home for the Holidays, My Favorite Things, The Little Drummer Boy, and more!

General Admission is \$7 and may be purchased at resonanceve.com.

SUNDAY, 12/11 AT 6:00 PM: EAST VALLEY CHORALE has been together for 23 years singing songs of worship and praise. On December 11th we will be singing beautiful songs of the holiday season with a full orchestra at Velda Rose UMC! We hope you will join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus! The event is free, but if you enjoy the program, a free will offering would be gratefully accepted. (Please make checks out to East Valley Chorale.)

FRIDAY, 12/16 AT 7:00 PM: DESERT WINDS CONCERT BAND will be performing both religious and secular Christmas selections, including Yuletide Trilogy, Hallelujah Chorus, A Cowboy Christmas, Breath of Heaven, and several other arrangements. All Concerts performed by the Desert Winds Concert Band are free of charge. At the end of each concert we do ask for a volunteered donation to help the band with expenses. (Please make checks out to Towerpoint Concert Band.)



What's Coming in 2023

2023

Worship

IN JANUARY OF 2023, WE WILL BEGIN OUR YEAR looking at: The Problem With Scripture: Does The Bible Really Say That? This series will focus on well-known “quotes” from scripture that are either not in scripture or are taken out of context. As a result, they do not mean what people think they mean. Often these misquotes of scripture can chase people away from the church, from faith, and even from God.

February is about love. In the month of Valentine’s Day, we will look at: A Covenant of Love: Commit to Self, to Community and to God. The key scripture for this series is: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31; see also Matthew 22:37-39 and Luke 10:26-28).

Lent begins on February 22 and our focus for Lent will be the final words of Jesus from the cross, often called The Seven Last Words. (“Word” is this context means statement, rather than a literal word.) Each week of Lent will focus on one of Jesus’ statements from the cross, concluding with, “It is finished,” on Good Friday. Then on Resurrection morning, April 9, at our glorious Easter celebration, we will hear, The New Word: Resurrection.

Mission



The Mighty United Methodist Coalition has begun planning for its upcoming

build with Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona. Wall raising for the 2023 build in central Glendale will be in late January. Recent builds have been in Tempe, Surprise, Peoria, and central and south Phoenix. Velda Rose UMC is invited to join the

Coalition in this fulfilling ministry. If you might be interested in being part of a Mighty United Methodist Habitat build, let us now and we will reach out to the coalition.

UWF Rummage Sale—February 23-25, 2023. Our United Women of Faith will hold their February Rummage Sale and welcome volunteers to help in a variety of roles. In addition, the United Methodist Men in Ministry and Mission welcome volunteers to help prepare, sell and serve food to the workers and the public who attend the rummage sale. The money raised from the rummage sale benefits a number of local, national and international charities.

Study: New Member Class, Congregational Choice

In addition to Sunday school classes, we will offer a new member class in January. Anyone who would like to learn more about becoming a member of Velda Rose UMC should contact the church office. The exact day and time of the class will be set to allow the most people who are interested can attend.

We are planning a Wednesday afternoon study and a meal. And YOU pick the topic. We are asking the Congregation to let us know what you want to learn. Please fill out a survey in worship or online at <https://s.surveypal.com/7ict9bn4>.

District Leadership Conference, February 4, 2023

ARE YOU ON A committee?

Are you thinking about getting more involved at Velda Rose UMC?

Did you find our DS a fun person to hang out with?

Would you like to meet our new bishop?

If you answered “yes” to any of those questions, have we got an offer for you. The District Leadership Conference is a place to connect with other local church leadership, gain ideas and tools for effective and vital ministry, and be inspired as disciples of Jesus Christ who announced, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Bishop Carlo Rapanut, our newly elected and assigned bishop, will address each conference. Two Thriving Sessions will be presented, followed by lunch as a time to connect with others. The Thriving Sessions are:

The Road Before Us

Led by Rev. Rachel Gilmore, Director of New & Vital Faith Ministries

Let’s be honest; most of our churches are struggling. People aren’t coming back to in-person worship, and giving isn’t what it used to be. As a denomination, we continue to decline, and there is a disconnect between the church and the community. But what if it didn’t have to be that way? What if there was ongoing training for clergy and laity to help the church figure out how to reach people in new and innovative ways? What if we learned about the primary shifts the church needs to make in 2023 and beyond? Join us for a brief introductory workshop at the District Leadership Conference to learn more about this exciting ongoing training opportunity available to any church in the DSC.

Counteracting Bias: Seeing People As They Are

Led by Rev. Javier Olivares and Jess Brown
The word bias simply means an evaluation or belief that is favorable or unfavorable. Bias in and of itself is a neutral term. Bias is a natural inclination or tendency for or against an idea, object, person, group, or belief. We can only see and perceive

people, cultures, and the world from our perspective, regardless of how correct or skewed our perspective is. Of course, if our perspective is correct and we can see things the way they are, then there is no issue. However, an inherent bias in our perspective keeps us from seeing people and the world the way it is. Our faith teaches and encourages us that we do not need to be stuck in our biases. By the grace of God in Jesus Christ, we can overcome our biases and see people and the world as they are. The Holy Spirit lets us see what God sees in people, especially those different from us.

To register, go to <https://dscumc.org/event/2023-district-leadership-conference-phoenix-az/> or contact the church office and we will get you registered.



Let’s Save Some Lives on December 18, 2022



American Red Cross

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, THE RED CROSS WILL BE ON CAMPUS as we

gather for worship. The Red Cross has over -135 years of experience providing humanitarian aid including more than 75 years of supplying blood to those in need. Each pint of blood we collect can help save up to three lives and will touch the lives of so many more. What a great way to pay it forward, to show **#morelove** and make an impact on people in our community and across the country.

The angels tell us **#DoNotBeAfraid**, and so does the Red Cross. To sign up to be a donor, go to <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html> to sign up.

The UMC Moving Forward

September 18, 2022

Dear churches in the East District,

My name is Landon Isingoma. I am a member of St. Matthews UMC, which is also in the East District, and I am 13 years old. If you haven't heard, a group called the GMC (Global Methodist Church) has decided to split off from us because they are uncomfortable with the increasing inclusiveness of the United Methodist church. In my experience, my generation will not be part of an organization that is not inclusive. If people in my generation want to be part of church at all, they want a church that welcomes everyone.

I am afraid that people will not understand that the UMC is more inclusive than the GMC, and if someone has a bad experience in the GMC they may think all Methodist churches discriminate. I know that almost everyone loves the name United Methodist Church, and so do I, but we need to make the difference between the UMC and the GMC clear. A name change may be necessary to make the difference more apparent. Please keep this in mind and be open to a

name change.

Another way to make our inclusiveness obvious, so that everyone knows what to expect in our churches, is to post a statement of inclusivity: **all are welcome, regardless of race, gender identity, sexuality, age, beliefs, disability or appearance.** I invite you to post a statement like this (or a flag or symbol with similar meaning and representation) in a prominent place in all your church materials, if you have not already. We can invite other congregations to join, including UMCs in other areas and even congregations in other inclusive denominations. Please consider inviting another church to post their inclusivity as well, so our collective effort can gain the attention of young people.

Thank you. I look forward to seeing our faith community grow in these directions as we act on these things. I pray our church lives on for future generations.

Sincerely,

Landon Isingoma

VRUMC Music Arts



AS A MUSIC STAFF, we are excited to announce these happenings in 2023!

CHANCEL CHOIR **

Our Chancel Choir will meet again! Singing once a

month. We are in the process of choosing the rehearsal date, the music and contacting those who have signed up. We are grateful for every person who has signed up! If you are interested in joining the choir, please reach out to me.

Rachelle Starr will be the Choir Director and I will be the Accompanist.

INFINITY IN MUSIC SERIES ***

We launched our Infinity in Music Series in January 2020...then Covid hit. We are "relaunching" it and

Mary Ellen Loose

are excited to announce that our first guest in January will be Brett Valliant, the fabulous Organist at Organ Stop Pizza.

Look for other outstanding organists and fine musicians in the months to come.



** A special Thank You to Pastor Ann Lyter and the SPRC Committee for their tremendous support in bringing choir back.

*** A big Thank You to Robert Richter who initially made our series possible with his generous donations.

United Women in Faith Christmas Stocking Project



THE DEADLINE FOR RECEIVING DONATIONS to fill Christmas stockings for 4 local elementary schools has been moved up to Sunday, December 4.

Currently, they are in need of candy canes or any other candy (other than chocolate), and about 50 beanie babies. If you have any questions, please call Arlene Oisten.

Mission Project—Reverse Advent Calendar



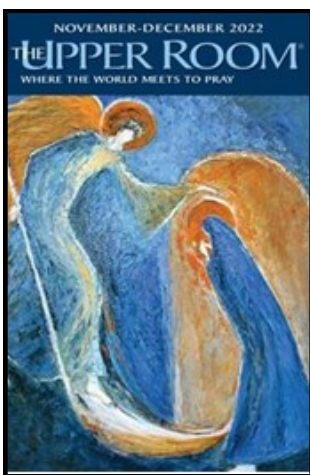
THIS YEAR, OUR ADVENT MISSION PROJECT, the Reverse Advent Calendar, will support two missions, the Velda Rose Food Bank, and Save the Family. A

traditional Advent calendar involves opening a box or envelope every day in Advent and finding a gift as a countdown to Christmas. A Reverse Advent

Calendar also counts down to Christmas, but instead of getting a gift each day, you give a gift, collecting them all until Christmas and then bringing the collection to the church. We will distribute everything you collect to either our Food Pantry, or to Save the Family. Every item on the calendar is a requested item from one of those two charities. You can find a copy of the calendar on the next page.

Nov. to Dec. Upper Room

VRUMC Food Pantry



THE NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2022 UPPER ROOMS are available in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, or in the office during office hours.

If you are homebound and would like to receive the Upper Room by mail, please contact the office to be put on the mailing list.



VELDA ROSE UMC'S FOOD PANTRY is currently in need of items for holiday food bags (please see back of newsletter for more information). We are also in need of travel-sized items:

- Shampoo
- Lotion
- Conditioner
- Soap

Donations can be brought to the Food Pantry Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, the church office during office hours, or put in the Food Pantry Baskets in front of the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings.



VRUMC 2022

Reverse Advent Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/27 Baby diapers size 3	11/28 Canned Vegetables	11/29 Spaghetti Sauce	11/30 Baby Lotion	12/1 Canned Chicken	12/2 Sample Size Shampoo	12/3 Baby Toys (safe under 3)
12/4 Baby Diapers size 4	12/5 Canned Soup	12/6 Boxed pasta/rice	12/7 Baby Shampoo	12/8 Canned Tuna	12/9 Sample Size Body Wash	12/10 Board Book (for toddler)
12/11 Baby Diapers size 5	12/12 Canned Fruit	12/13 Mac & Cheese (boxed)	12/14 Baby Body Wash	12/15 Spam	12/16 Sample Size Lotion	12/17 Stacking Cups or Blocks
12/18 Baby Wipes	12/19 Canned Beans	12/20 Instant Mashed Potatoes	12/21 Diaper Rash Ointment	12/22 Vienna Sausages	12/23 Sample Size Toothpaste	12/24 Stuffed Animal

Put this calendar someplace convenient, like a refrigerator. Collect the items listed throughout Advent, either from things you already have or as you go shopping. Bring your Advent collections to the church at 5540 E. Main Street, Mesa AZ beginning on Christmas Eve, the last day of Advent, and up to January 8, 2023, and we will make sure everything gets to the food pantry and to Save the Family. Even if you don't collect everything, whatever you collect will be a help.

The Green Team: Caring For God's Earth

COUNTDOWN TO OUR EARTH DAY CELEBRATION as of 12/1/2022: 144 days!!!

"LET'S GET GREEN"

We need to use a lot less single use plastic and standardize on a few recyclable plastics for packaging use.

"Greenpeace" has reported that recycling has dropped to about 5%, down from 8.7% in 2018. There are three reasons for this...

1. The volume of plastics produced has increased.
2. Contamination rates remain high, making the process unprofitable with most current technology.
3. Insufficient investment in domestic processing capacity since China, and later the rest of Asia's decision to stop importing our trash because it is considered too dirty to be profitable.

Humans don't want to clean up after themselves and they don't want to "pay" someone to do it!!!

Watch for next month: What can we do to help save "God's beautiful Earth?"

VRUMC Prayer Chain

Prayer

IN NEED OF PRAYER? Call head of the UWF Prayer Chain Ruth Mogen, or contact the church office.

The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power]. James 5:16 AMP

Monthly Prayer for Churches



- Primera Iglesia Metodista Unida, Phoenix
- Phoenix Native American Fellowship Journey UMF, Maricopa
- Red Mountain UMC, Mesa

In Loving Memory

Phyllis "PJ" Hendricks 10/31/2021

Kristi Anderson 7/2022

Lynn Tenold 10/2/2022

Phyllis Dunn 11/11/2022

Steve Benson 11/25/2022



Karen Taylor	12/2	Sylvia Morgan	12/15
Louise Middleton	12/3	Al Schubring	12/16
Sonja Smith	12/4	Geri Edson	12/19
Carrie Carroll	12/7	Marilyn Heckman	12/20
Georgia Fagerland	12/7	Boni Lundin	12/22
Maridel Spiegeler	12/9	Imogene Hulett	12/23
Marlene Fuks	12/12	Anne Marie Knudson	12/23
Eunice Tesoriero	12/14	Larry Jackson	12/29
Judy Lowum	12/15	Peg Snowdall	12/31



Fifty + Years

Brenda and Ray Monks	12/10	Charles and Ruth Anne White	12/26
James & Sherrie Bludorn	12/28		



VELDA ROSE

United Methodist Church

5540 East Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85205-8720
(480) 832-2111
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

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

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Staff Leadership

Rev. Grant J. Hagiya, Resident Bishop
Rev. Melissa Rynders, East District Superintendent
Rev. Ann Lyter, Senior Pastor
Rev. Daniel Gómez, Associate Pastor
Ministers, Every Member of the Congregation

WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

Wednesday Morning Devotions
10:00 AM

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

Sunday Morning Services
9:30 AM

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

NEXT ISSUE

Items considered for the January Vision must be submitted to Jessica at officeadmin@veldarose.org by **Tuesday, December 13, 2022.**

JOIN US ON
Christmas Eve



4:00, 7:00 & 11:00 PM

5540 E Main Street, Mesa 85205