

The Vision

Volume 16, Issue 1

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

January 2023

Food for the Body & Soul: Building Spiritual Strength By Pastor Ann

WELCOME NEW YEAR 2023! A brand new year. Somehow starting a new calendar feels like everything can be different. My family’s New Year’s tradition was to eat pork and sauerkraut. My mom served it with buttery mashed potatoes, and dessert was whatever Christmas sweets were still around—usually cookies. And while my mom often cooked pork and sauerkraut in a dutch oven, I’ve found the crock pot easiest.

Like so many of us, another New Year’s tradition for me is to make New Year’s Resolutions. I know the running joke is that no one keeps their resolutions, but more of us manage to keep them than we think. According to discoverhappyhabits.com, 46%

of people who make resolutions are still keeping their resolution after 6 months. That may not seem very successful—it is less than half, after all. But compare that to people who have similar goals but do not set a resolution, only 4% are still successful after 6 months.

There are lots of reasons why people are not successful at keeping their resolutions. Many people set unrealistic goals, don’t include a way to keep track of their resolution and end up forgetting about it, or try to make too many resolutions. Another problem is that setting a goal and telling others about it actually decreases our ability to reach the goal. Ironically, by telling others we have set a goal, our brain gives us a similar reward that reaching the goal would give us—thereby reducing our motivation to actually reach the goal.

What does this have to do with faith? As Methodists, we are striving to “go on to perfection” and resolutions about spiritual disciplines can be a good way to work on that. John Wesley and others in the Holiness Club would set goals for themselves of

fasting two days a week, setting specific times for prayer and scripture reading, and set goals for visiting the sick or imprisoned. I’m not suggesting we should resolve to do all those things. I think that would likely be both too many resolutions, which, as mentioned above, make it less likely that we will be

successful, and it’s unrealistic—we just aren’t likely to form multiple new habits at the same time.

Setting a resolution to develop one new spiritual discipline, however, is a wonderful way to build our spiritual strength.

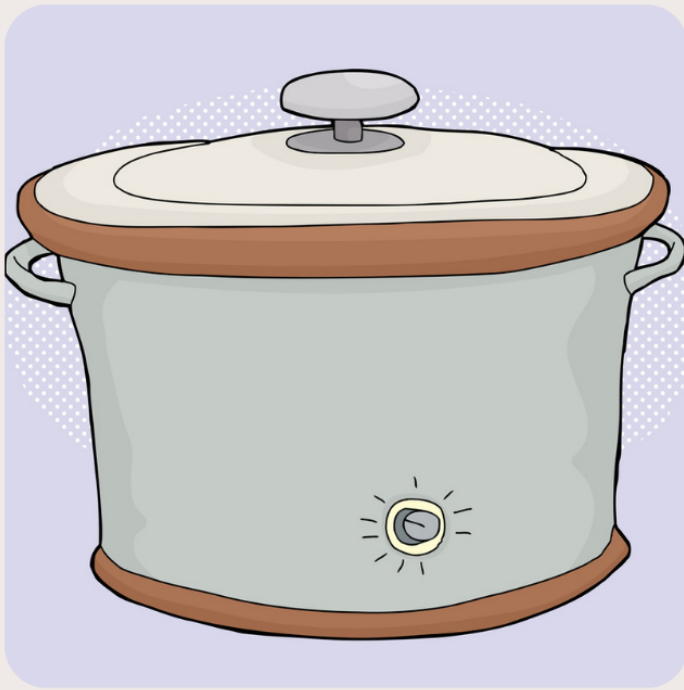
For me, I’m going to read scripture and post a daily meditation based on the scriptures I read. I invite you to join me, either by following my daily postings and reading

along, or choosing your own reading plan. I will be using the Classic Bible Reading Plan from www.biblestudytools.com. This site has several different plans, including a “Stay on Track” plan that has catch-up days built in. In addition, the site will help you keep track of your readings, which will help you keep your resolution.

Now you may be wondering about that fact I mentioned above, that telling someone about your goal makes you less likely to complete it. While that is true, having an accountability partner, someone who will hold you accountable for keeping your resolution, actually increases your likelihood of keeping it. I am counting on you to be my accountability partner by looking for my postings beginning on January 1. I will be posting to Facebook, both my own page and Velda Rose’s, and eventually to our website.

I also invite you to join in eating pork and sauerkraut on New Year’s Day. My mom swears it will bring good luck! And anything that is mom-approved, must be good! (Recipe on page 2.)





Food for the Body & Soul

PORK & SAUERKRAUT

Crockpot Method

INGREDIENTS

- 3 pound pork loin trimmed of excess fat
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper
- ½ tsp paprika
- ½ tsp celery seeds
- ½ tsp caraway seeds
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 16 ounces of your favorite sauerkraut drained (I like Bubbies)
- 1-2 clove(s) of garlic, minced
- 1 yellow onion, diced
- 1 Granny Smith apple, cored and sliced
- 1 cup apple juice

DIRECTIONS

1. **Mix the salt, pepper, paprika, celery seeds, and caraway seeds. Liberally season the pork loin with seasoning mixture on all sides.**
2. **Heat oil in large skillet. Sear pork loin on all sides.**
3. **Move seared pork into a crock pot.**
4. **In the same skillet, cook the onions until softened and just starting to brown, add the garlic and cook only until fragrant (this takes less than a minute usually).**
5. **Place the apples around the pork loin. Add the cooked onions and garlic. Top with drained sauerkraut.**
6. **Pour in the apple juice.**
7. **Place lid on the crock pot and cook for 4-5 hours on high or 8-10 hours on low.**
8. **Slice or shred pork and serve with the sauerkraut and the cooking liquid.**

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

January 1

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

Get Up and Go #morelife
Matthew 2:1-23
Pastor Daniel

January 8

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

This Is All Part of God's Plan
Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 29:11
Pastor Ann

January 15

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

*God Will Never Give You More Than
You Can Handle*
1 Corinthians 10:13
Pastor Daniel

January 22

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

*The Bible Says It, I Believe It, End of
Discussion*
Hebrews 13:1-2, Genesis 18:1-25
Pastor Ann

January 29: UWF Sunday

In-person & Online at 9:30 AM

TBD
Pastor Ann

JANUARY 1 CONCLUDES our Angels
Amongst Us series. Starting January
8, we will begin The Problem with
Scripture or, Does the Bible Really
Say That?

**WEDNESDAY
MORNING
DEVOTIONS**

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

JANUARY 1 CONCLUDES our Angels Amongst Us series. Starting January 8, we will begin The Problem with Scripture or, Does the Bible Really Say That? 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.

January 4

January 18

January 11

January 25



IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER, I quoted something I read in an article from Pastor N. Lawrence. Once again, here is that quote: *“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 early Christmas gift purchase at a deeply discounted price.”* I guess another way to say it is that we give thanks on Thanksgiving for all that we have, and then we rush out to go shopping on Black Friday because we have to have more. There is a madness to this season for going into debt, for buying what we cannot afford, for getting and spending.

William Wordsworth wrote a poem titled *The World is Too Much with Us*. He wanted to express how the pressure is on to show our love for our loved ones through the gifts we give. Wordsworth wrote,

*The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!*

“Getting and spending we lay waste our powers.” What *powers* is Wordsworth talking about? He’s referring to our power to create and be creative; our power to be more hospitable to nature and neighbor. Our power to live into the call on our lives to be in relationship with a world suffering within.

In today’s society, the season of Advent has

gradually been consumed by the cultural celebration of Christmas. For many, Advent is no longer a separate-special time, a time for waiting, but it is just part of the Christmas season. However, the season of Advent was meant to be more than just a countdown to Christmas. It is meant to be a spiritual journey of preparation for the coming of our savior. While Christmas is still a Christian holiday, it has also become a cultural one. For many, the Christmas story has less to do with the bible and more to do with toys and creative decorations. When you ask people about Christmas music they are more likely to think of Mariah Carey singing *All I Want For Christmas is You*, instead of *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* or *Silent Night*. If you talk about Christmas and a savior, some people are quick to think of Rudolf the red-nosed reindeer saving the day as opposed to a prophesied messiah being born in a manger.

Years ago, while serving a congregation in Las Vegas, we ended up attracting a large group of youth from outside the church. This happened because one youth invited another, who invited another, who invited another, and so on. For the month of December, we had planned some games and activities for the youth and their families. On one of these Friday evenings, two of the parents asked, “What are we doing tonight?”

I said, “We are going to play Christmas games and read the Christmas story.”

They stared back at me with puzzled faces, and asked, “What Christmas story?”

I was a little surprised and said, “The story of why we celebrate Christmas.”

They looked at each other confused, before one asked, “Oh yeah, you mean The Night Before Christmas?”

That year I was reminded just how important it is for us to tell the story year after year, because there are people who do not know it. Not only do we need to tell the story, but we also need to constantly point to the fact that God so loved the world that he
(continued on page 5)

Wednesdays in January—Classes, Dinner and Choir

BEGINNING JANUARY 18, VELDA ROSE UMC WILL BE the place to be on Wednesdays.

10:00 am We will continue our Wednesday morning Bible Study and Devotion, livestreamed on Facebook. If you like, you can be in the audience and stay after recording to discuss the day's topic.

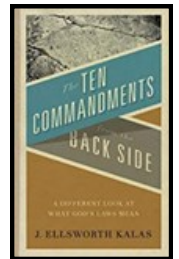
4:00 pm Prayer and Meditation, led by Pastor Ann. This class is free but Pastor Ann is asking people to register and commit to attend. We will learn about different kinds of prayer, including Centering Prayer, Breath Prayer, Intercessory Prayer, Scriptural Prayer, and more. We will include a time to practice the different types of prayer and a time to lift up prayer concerns of the group and to pray for the congregation, the community, and the world. Bringing a prayer journal will be helpful, but not required.



5:30 pm We will offer a simple, nutritious supper—suggested donation \$10. You are encouraged to bring your own place setting to minimize clean up and to avoid adding to a landfill. Paper and plastic place settings will be available for those who need them.

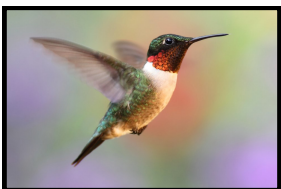
6:30 pm Choir Practice

6:30 pm *The Ten Commandments from the Back Side*, led by Pastor Daniel. The books are \$12 each if purchased from the office starting January 3.



To register for the classes or to get your name added to the choir roster, please contact the church office.

Be Still and Know, Continued



promised a savior, and when Jesus was born, that promise was fulfilled – a savior has come!

For the beginning of a new year, be encouraged to sit quietly, to reflect, to examine your life, to focus on what is most important. See within yourself the birthing of *God with us, God in us*, and all that this means for your individual life. Invite Christ into any emptiness you are carrying (or denying even exists). Blaise Pascal, a French philosopher, mathematician and theologian wrote:

“All of humanity’s problems stem from their inability to sit quietly in a room alone.”

Therefore, for the beginning of a new year, I encourage you to sit quietly, reflect, examine your life and focus on what is most important.

Psalm 46:10: “Be still and know that I am God.”

United Women in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

RESPONSE (the magazine of women in mission) November/December 2022 edition (written by Billie Larime)

THE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 EDITION of the *Response* contains a Bible Study "Life-giving Creation and Transformation". This Bible study is adapted from the November program in the 2022-2023 United Women in Faith Program Resource, *Mosaic of Faith: We Are All Part of God's Story*.

Each year the United Women in Faith of Velda Rose UMC celebrates the World Thank Offering as an opportunity to share God's transformative power in the world. At Velda Rose UMC, the Circles Naomi and Esther celebrated not only Christmas, but also the World Thank Offering as one of United Women in Faith's Mission Giving channels. This is a way to give money to all the mission institutions that we support around the world.

The Bible Study on pages 8, 9, & 10 from the *Response* magazine could be used individually or at a group gathering. The following are the headings:



Thank God for one another, Thank God for life-giving changes, Thank God for the Word, Thank God for reflection and giving, Thank God for creativity, Thank God for transformations and Thank God for prayer. Copies of the *Response* can be found in the

Velda Rose Church Library.

NEW OFFICERS FOR VELDA ROSE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ELECTED FOR 2023

President: Mary Killgrove

Nominations: Kathy Kolbo

Vice President: Pat Nixon

Program Resources: Pat Nixon

Secretary: Billie Larime

Spiritual Growth: Grace Van Brunt

Treasurer: Jeanne Siedschlag

Membership: Billie Larime

Ed. For Mission: K Roemmich

Social Action: Tish Roberts

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2023 READING PROGRAM

Thanks to Mary Killgrove, our previous Chair of Program Resources, we will be adding 35 new books to the Fitch Library in January of 2023. We hope not only women, but men, and grandchildren will avail themselves of the Christian Centered Books. The Velda Rose Library will be open each Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for checkouts.

For grandchildren we have the following titles located along the west wall: *How Far Do you Love Me?*, *Change Sings: A Children's Anthem*, *Magic Like That*, *Stay This Way Forever*, *World Of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies*, *Whale Sharks*, *Nibi's Water Song*, *Freedom We Sing*. Members of the Reading Club for United Women of Faith should read these books first and then share them with their grandchildren or great grandchildren.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY ON JANUARY 21ST, 2023

I invite all officers of Velda Rose United Women in Faith to attend the training offered for you at Gold Canyon United Methodist Church of the East District. You will be with experienced trainers to explain your job. It is a day of celebration and learning. Contact our President Mary Killgrove to register for the event. Carpooling will be available. It will include a light breakfast and lunch. Scholarships are available.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ARVILLA JUNGMAN, SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

"I am a member of UWF and a Christian. I will not just stand by and watch. I will reach out and engage in ways to help the poor, the downtrodden, the sick and the hungry."

Mission Highlight: Justa Center



VELDA ROSE UNITED WOMEN
IN FAITH SUPPORT Justa
Center.

Justa Center started when
Reverend Scott Ritchey was

serving as a chaplain at the United Methodist Outreach Ministry (UMOM) overflow shelter located at 1001 W Jefferson Street in Phoenix in 2006. He observed a growing number of seniors in homeless. At that time, all adults aged 18 and older were provided the same services in the same manner. Working with those with lived-experience, they learned about the unique needs, limitations, and barriers to housing. Over 130 individuals were served

that first year.

For the next nine years, Scott worked to shape programs, services and a culture. Justa Center lives those values today and every day. In a New York Times Magazine article in 2020, Justa Center was described as “small but mighty.”

Hear more about the origins and passion for seniors in homelessness that Rev. Scott Ritchey brings to this interview: <https://youtu.be/OxW68v58qrl>

To learn more about Justa Center, all of their programs, or how you can help, go to justacenter.org.

February 2023 Rummage Sale



**Rummage Sale
Cometh—
February 23-25,
2023**

THE NEXT
RUMMAGE SALE will
be held February
23-25, 2023. It is

not too early to start planning to help with the sale. Several worker positions only happen during the sale; such as, Holding Area, Cashiers, Door Guards, and persons who help to sell items that are out in the tent area on the driveway. Also, each department can use extra help during the sale. The Mission Warehouse is not open to the public. Being a worker gives you the privilege of shopping all year at the Mission Warehouse, and workers are allowed to bring in 1 or 2 friends or family with them.

Positions Needed

Door Guard Chairperson--We have three doors for which we need to have people at each of the doors. The chairperson needs to contact people and sign them up to work. During the sale you would need to check to be sure that the person/persons who signed up are in place for their shift.

Sorters (Year-Round)—People who would like to work in the sorting room. This is not a sit-down job. We help customers unload their items, we sort all items coming in, we move boxes out to departments, etc. A sorter should be able to commit at least one morning each week to the job.

Drop-Off Hours

The Mission Warehouse is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. for dropping off donations. Should you need a pickup of larger items, please call David. Do not procrastinate; we will stop picking up items early in February.

Metal Recycling

The A-team at the Mission Warehouse recycles aluminum, brass, copper, steel, dirty steel, stainless steel, cast iron, electric motors, plug ends, small wire, bare wire (copper), Christmas lights, vehicle batteries, lead, ballasts, green boards, compressors, radiators, old tvs, non-working appliances, computers, basically anything metal. Your unwanted metals can be dropped off at the Mission Warehouse Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. For items too large or heavy for you to drop off, call David for a pickup.

United Men's Ministry



OUR UNITED METHODIST MEN IN MINISTRY AND MISSION invite all men to our meetings. Come and enjoy some fellowship and get acquainted. Hear of some of the things we are planning. Most of our endeavors support

our local missions. Our meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 11:30 A.M. in Martin Hall on the Church Campus. A light lunch is served.

CANS CANS CANS



The UMMM are now collecting aluminum drinking cans to be recycled. This is good for our environment and also will help us with income for our missions and projects. You can drop your cans off at the pods on the east end of the mission building. There are slots there to place them in. All cans are appreciated.

VELDA ROSE UMC T-SHIRTS



Velda Rose UMMM are going to be selling T-shirts with this design. Colors will be in blue and gold. The price will be \$20 for sizes medium through 2X. Customer orders will be

accepted the last three Sundays in January or in the office during office hours. Shirts are to be delivered early in February.



BREAD BOWL SOUP & ICE CREAM

We are sponsoring a Bread Bowl soup on February 5, 2023 after the 9:30 AM service. Soup and ice cream will be served in Moore Hall. A goodwill offering will be accepted.



Our email is veldaroseummm@veldarose.org if you wish to contact us.

Bruce D. Williams, President UMMM

January-February Upper Room



THE JANUARY –FEBRUARY 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.

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.

Velda Rose Food Pantry



THE FOOD PANTRY AT VELDA ROSE UMC provides non-perishable food to those who come seeking assistance. Since September 2022, we have seen a gradual increase of families receiving food boxes.

For January 2023, we are in need of the following items:

Peanut butter, Jelly, Cereal, cans of Tuna, Pasta & Spaghetti sauce.

Donations can be brought to the church office or put in the Food Pantry shopping carts in front of the Sanctuary.

Bishop Rapanut Ready to Be Authentic Leader Within the Church

By Kristen Caldwell
November 10, 2022
westernjurisdictionumc.org

FOR BISHOP CARLO A.
RAPANUT, NOVEMBER 4 IS
SPIRITUALLY SIGNIFICANT for

several reasons.

On Nov. 4, 1978, he was traveling by bus to Baguio City in the northern Philippines with his mom and little brother when a truck carrying huge bamboo poles crashed into their bus.

The bamboo poles pierced through the window, causing scratches and scars that Rapanut still sees on his face. In a moment of quick thinking, his mother lifted Rapanut's brother from her lap before the bamboo rods pierced through her stomach. She was rushed to the hospital. She was clinically dead, but there was a doctor who said her heart was beating and knew the woman had the will to live.

In telling this story, Rapanut notes that his father wasn't with them on this bus. But he said that in this moment of watching the love of his life fight for her life, his father prayed and turned toward Christ.

"That was the turning point for our family," he said. "I wouldn't be here talking today if not for Nov. 4, 1978." His parents went on to live 40 more beautiful years together.

And on Nov. 4, 2022, Rapanut was elected a bishop in the Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church on the 13th ballot just before lunch. As the delegates moved from ballot 3 to ballot 13 on Friday morning, the excitement was building, and then he couldn't really believe it was happening when he heard the words "there's been an election" and his name was called.

"There was something in me that said it might signal another chapter," Rapanut said. "I'm just so excited to step into this role."

BEGINNING JAN. 1, 2023, RAPANUT WILL BEGIN HIS ASSIGNMENT AS BISHOP FOR THE DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE. But that's the next chapter.



His story begins growing up in the Philippines as the son of a bi-vocational pastor and community organizer and a mother who served in leadership roles within each of his father's churches.

Rapanut was discerning his call to ministry when he met his friend and fellow United Methodist pastor Rev. Mark Galang at a youth fellowship event in 1996. They were classmates in seminary, became roommates, and then Galang started dating Rapanut's cousin, whom he later married.

Galang said Rapanut, who has taken up long-distance running as a spiritual practice, has always been a "step ahead" in so many literal and spiritual ways.

"He's my kuya," Galang said, which means "big brother" in Tagalog.

Rapanut was ordained in the Philippines in 2006, and he now becomes the first Filipino American bishop to serve in the U.S. and the first U.S. bishop to have been ordained in a central conference. He doesn't take lightly this responsibility – that he stands on the shoulders of ancestors who were colonized and with people that are now de-colonizing themselves.

"I am a Filipino American. I am an immigrant," Rapanut said. "I was born, raised and heard my call to ministry and ordained in the Philippine central conference. I pray that the (continued on page 11)

Bishop Rapanut Ready to Be Authentic Leader... Continued

church, The United Methodist Church in the United States, will give me the space to lead from my authentic self and not force me to think white, to act white and to just be 'business as usual.'"

He may also be the first bishop elected to have served in the Alaska Conference of The UMC. After moving from the Philippines, Rapanut and his wife Radie arrived in Chugiak, Alaska, where he served a church for six years before becoming the Alaska Conference Superintendent and Director of Connectional Ministries.

"Alaska will always have a special place in my heart," he said. "The Alaska Conference helped raise me to be the leader I am right now."

Galang said in all the positions his cousin (through marriage) has held, in all the leadership roles Rapanut has taken on while also being a father to two children, a husband, an avid runner and more, he has been grounded in his life and ministry – even through the episcopal discernment process.

Whether people want to admit it or not, the discernment process is a political one. Galang served as Rapanut's "support person" and was allowed to be in the room with him as ballots were issued and votes were cast and as his friend inched closer to that two-thirds vote threshold needed to become a bishop.

"I would check in with him, and he would say he was grounded," Galang said. "I'm hoping he remains grounded when he does this work."

Rapanut believes he can help the role of bishop evolve into what God is calling it to be at this point in the life of the church.

"I'm a very relational person. Even in situations where I clearly have the positional authority in the room, I want to collaborate with people," he said. "I lead in a circle, for I know I'm not the only expert in the room. Sometimes I'm not even the expert in the room."

There will be disappointments and difficult decisions to come, but the decisions he makes will be "seasoned" by the input of those with whom he collaborates.

As The United Methodist Church grapples with its future – declining membership, disaffiliation and possible fracturing – Rapanut said he will lean into his culture to help guide his ministry, and others, through some of the potential trials and tribulations. When someone passes away, the community holds a wake or a season of grieving, Rapanut said. They sit together, reconnect and build ties. Some of that work will be necessary as the church says goodbye to those who don't feel they can be connected to this denomination any longer. He said he'll call upon his relational gifts to help move that process along.

"We're going to need a season of healing. We're going to need a season where we come together to re-connect to build broken relationships," Rapanut said. "We need to bless each other on our way and allow each other to grow apart from one another. There's a ministry of absence so that we might allow ourselves to discover who we are. And maybe, just maybe, down the road, we might come back together in a new form of a relationship."



Bishop Rapanut recently ran a "Prayer Run" through the month of

December. To read his announcement about the prayer run or check out his weekly posts where he shares running distances, locations and the churches he prayed for, go to dscumc.org/blog/2022/11/30/bishop-carlo-rapanut-announces-a-prayer-run/ or dscumc.org/user/bishopcarlo/?profiletab=posts.

Velda Rose
Infinity in Music Series

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE that our "Infinity in Music Series" will begin again this month.

We are thrilled to announce that our first guest artist will Brett Valliant, the main organist at Organ Stop Pizza.

He will be presenting a concert on our beautiful Infinity Organ, for which our series was named.

It will take place on Friday, Jan. 20 at 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary. Donations will be accepted for the Concert Series.



Concert is being underwritten by the Velma M. Richter and Robert E. Richter Trust.

We are confirming our other guest artists. Look for information in the next Vision.

VRUMC's Chancel Choir

VELDA ROSE METHODIST CHURCH
C H A N C E L C H O I R

Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm

FIRST REHEARSAL Jan. 18th

We'd love you to join us...

You'll not be asked to audition.

Nor will you be expected to read music.

You don't even have to worry about the type of voice you have.

All you need is a passion for singing, a willingness to learn,
and a dedication to attend rehearsals and Sunday performances.

Please contact Mary Ellen Loose, Director of Music Arts

Sweet.emmie@yahoo.com 480-404-0011

Thank You For Your Support



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING the United Women of Faith Christmas Stocking Project.

On behalf of the UWF, we want to thank everyone who contributed items needed to stuff the 500 hand-painted Christmas stockings and those great stocking

stuffers who came to stuff on December 6th. You helped make Christmas a happier occasion for 500 children at the following schools: Jefferson Elementary, Stevenson Elementary, Sousa Elementary, and, Taft Elementary. We could not have done it without your help.

Thank you,

Arlene Oisten, Christmas Stocking Coordinator

Donations Needed for ABC Program in Mesa

MESA, AZ – MESA RESIDENTS CAN MAKE A BETTER COMMUNITY by helping people in need during the holiday season and year-round. Mesa's ABC: A Better Community utility donation program provides shelter, meals, and other essential services to Mesa children, families, and seniors facing economic challenges. *For the 22/23 fiscal year, the City has allocated ABC grant money to two non-profit agencies:*

- Paz de Cristo - helps provide meals, food, clothing, showers, and other services to Mesa community members struggling with hunger, poverty, and homelessness.
- United Food Bank - helps people in our community with food bags and puts nutritious meals on the tables for hungry children, seniors, and families.

During the past year, ABC donations helped Mesa non-profit organizations provide the following services:

- Feed: More than 50,000 meals are provided each month at Paz de Cristo
- Clothe: Clean clothes, a hot shower, and a haircut give a fresh start.
- Empower: help people find jobs and remove

barriers to get ahead.

127,500 units of emergency food

assistance provided a year

- 9 million+ pounds of Grocery Rescue Food
 - 3 million pounds of Meat, Fish & Poultry
 - 5.2 million pounds of Fresh Produce
 - 2.5 million pounds of Dairy Products
- 123,000 Mesa residents served a year



Donating to ABC is easy. You can donate in multiple ways: City utility customers can contribute by automatically donating money with their monthly utility bill payments. You can also round up the dollar on your utility bill or contribute a one-time amount.

If you are not a Mesa Utility Customer, you can donate online by visiting us at www.mesaaz.gov/abc and using our "Donate Now" button. Payment types accepted are credit/debit cards. You can also donate via telephone by calling 480-644-2221 (Mon-Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) or mailing a check to City of Mesa Customer Service, PO BOX 1466 Mesa, AZ 85211-1466 and write "ABC: A Better Community" in the memo area.

The Green Team: Caring For God's Earth



AS OF JANUARY 1, 2023 there are just 113 days until our Earth Day Celebration!

Let's continue to eliminate any kind of plastic we can...

How about plastic wrap? Do use a lot of it like I used to?

Here are a few examples: If you are making bread and waiting for the dough to rise... instead of covering it with plastic wrap (modern method) Try throwing a tea towel over it (old

fashion method) my grandmother used this method.

To cover a bowl of leftovers set a plate on top of it instead of using plastic wrap.

You can also transfer them to mason jars (I sometimes put them into the freezer for future use later on).

If you are partying or traveling... instead of covering a bowl with the plastic wrap look for mixing bowls with covers or party dishes that have removable lids.

VRUMC Prayer Chain



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



- Shepherd of the Pines UMC, Overgaard
- Spirit of Joy UMC, Coolidge
- Song of Life UMC, Queen Creek
- St. Matthew UMC, Mesa

In Loving Memory



Miriam House 11/10/2022

Lois Carson-Klassen 12/15/2022

Yvonne E. Saunders-Sinnott 12/4/2022



Connie Zimmerman	1/1	Suzi Reed	1/16
Lee Nixon	1/3	Diane Fischer	1/17
Paige Thomas	1/4	Gayle Ottman	1/17
Gary Ackerson	1/7	Judy Dunn	1/18
Bonnie MIsch	1/8	Lois Rowe	1/18
John Burley	1/12	Tom McMahon	1/21
Robert Lane	1/12	Wes Roose	1/21
Cliff Lowum	1/12	Hal Hartley	1/22
Rita McDaniel	1/12	Norma Winslow	1/25
Pat Schmitt	1/13	Robert Maumatapule	1/26
Gene Clabaugh	1/14	Richard Miller	1/27
Paula Latu	1/14	Madou Traore	1/28
Carol Ball	1/16	Dierdre Poyer	1/30
Joyce Damron	1/16		



Fifty + Years

William & Jean Corkill	1/26	Paula & Seini Latu	1/21
Richard & Virginia Williams	1/29		



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
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Rev. Carlo A. Rapanut, 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 February
Vision must be submitted to Jessica at
officeadmin@veldarose.org by
Tuesday, January 10, 2023.

