

# The Vision

Volume 17, Issue 1

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

January 2024

The response to my poem on Christmas Eve was so overwhelming, and so many people asked for copies, that I decided to include it in our January Vision. I know that for many, Christmas is over by 10 am on Christmas Day, but in reality, that's only the first day of Christmas (the day of the famous partridge in a pear tree). The Twelfth day of Christmas is not until January 6th and so in keeping with tradition, I'm continuing Christmas into January with this poem. I pray your Christmas has been and continues to be a time of blessing for you and your loved ones. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I am also including a recipe for a healthy start to the New Year: Quinoa and Vegetable Stir-Fry (p. 10).

*Pastor Ann*

## A Real Christmas Poem

T'was the night 'fore creation,  
and everywhere was God  
No creatures existed, not even a frog.  
The Trinity was dancing a dance filled with love,  
When o'er the waters, winds blew from above.  
The love from the Trinity, so great and so grand,  
Could not be contained, and so then God planned,  
To spread that love through creation of others  
Humans who would become fathers and mothers  
Humans to join in the dance filled with love  
Humans created in the image above.  
But humans did turn, they did fall, they did stumble  
They refused to dance.  
They knew not how to be humble.

But still God did love them, and wanted to dance  
And so God did give us all yet one more chance.  
He sought out those who were true and were faithful,  
She sought out the wise, and the kind and the grateful.  
And God found those whom God cherished and  
blessed,  
But still they did sin and created more mess.

So God, being God,  
knew that something quite drastic,  
Something was needed that would be fantastic.  
A fantasy, a mystery, to save all creation,

God, the great God, the Source of all nations,  
Would humble Godself in the bless'd incarnation.

And so the Word that is God, the Word that created,  
the Word that was in God and of God, related,  
The Word became flesh, God's only son,  
came to the earth as a babe, came to earth as the One.

And while here on earth, He asked us to dance,  
To join Him forever in that heavenly prance.  
A dance with the Father, the Spirit, the Son,  
To dance to the joy, to the love, to the fun.  
So God became human so humans could love,  
And join in God's Kindom that is founded above,  
Above everyday worries, and everyday strife,  
above our desires, our needs and our life,  
God's kindom is founded on justice and love.  
Where righteous flows in a stream from above.

So know this at Christmas, the season means more  
Than candy canes, Saint Nick and presents galore.  
Christmas, you see, is when we recall,  
That Jesus invites us to join in the ball,  
To join in the dance with the Trinity love,  
To all live as citizens of the Kindom above.

By Rev. Ann Lyter



## New Worship Series

Start your New Year by embracing life's seasons, one step at a time.

Are you ready to embark on a transformative journey that will inspire you, uplift your spirit, and fill your heart with hope? Join us for our new worship series, "Living Our Legacy: Nurturing What Matters Most," where we invite you to embrace life's seasons and discover the profound joy of being good stewards of God's precious gifts.

### What is this Series About?

In a world filled with uncertainty and rapid change, it's easy to lose sight of what truly matters. This series is an invitation to pause, reflect, and recenter our lives on the timeless wisdom found in God's Word. In "Living Our Legacy," we invite you to embrace each season, recognizing the divine purpose within. We explore the value of time and learn how to make the most of every moment, and consider what legacy we want to leave and how to do it.

### Embrace Life's Seasons

Life is a journey filled with seasons of joy and sorrow, growth and challenge, celebration and reflection. "Living Our Legacy" encourages you to embrace each season with open arms, recognizing that God has a purpose for every moment. Just as the trees flourish in their time, so too can we flourish in God's time.

### Nurturing What Matters Most

Being good stewards is about more than just managing our resources; it's about nurturing the core values and principles that guide our lives. Throughout this series, we'll explore how to nurture our faith, relationships, love, and compassion—what truly matters most.

### What to Expect

- **Inspirational Messages:** Our pastor will guide us through deep and meaningful reflections on scripture, helping us apply its teachings to our daily lives.



- **Beautiful Music:** We'll sing beloved hymns together as well as new songs that resonate with the theme of embracing life's seasons.
- **Engaging Discussions:** Join fellow participants in thought-provoking discussions with coffee, after worship, or join the Wednesday class, *On Purpose*, that will help you internalize and apply the lessons learned.

### Why Should You Attend?

- **Renewed Purpose:** Reconnect with your purpose and find fulfillment in every season of life.
- **Financial Wisdom:** Gain insights into responsible financial planning and leave a legacy of financial wellness.
- **Healthy Living:** Discover the importance of nurturing your body and soul for a vibrant life.
- **Legacy of Love:** Craft a legacy that reflects your values, making a lasting impact on those around you.
- **Community:** Join a warm and welcoming community of individuals who share your journey.

### Join Us:

We welcome individuals of all backgrounds, perspectives, and stages of life. Join us on this extraordinary path toward a legacy that will inspire generations to come. Begins 1/7.





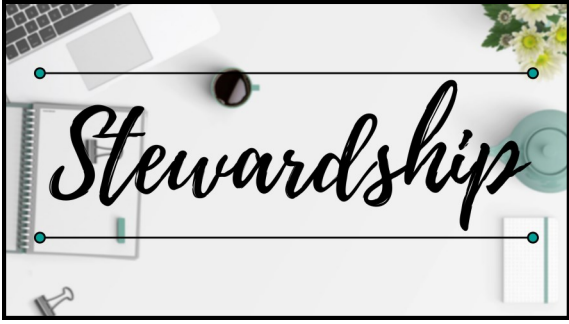
**REVERSE  
ADVENT  
CALENDAR  
DONATIONS**



Items will be dispersed Monday, January 8, 2024.

To everyone who participated in 2023's Reverse Advent Calendar (benefitting the Velda Rose UMC Food Pantry, and Mesa's Save the Family), *thank you!* If you would like to drop something off before items are dispersed, please do so no later than first thing Monday morning (1/8/24).

## 2024 Stewardship



Join us this January and early February for our annual stewardship campaign at Velda Rose Unites Methodist Church. As we kick off the new year, our worship series, "Living our Legacy: Nurturing What Really Matters," reminds us of the importance of nurturing our faith and community. At Velda Rose UMC, we are a diverse congregation with varying political and theological views, but one thing unites us all – our commitment to supporting our church family and nurturing the values

that truly matter. If you have a story of how VRUMC has touched your life, or the importance of stewardship and are willing to share your story, let the church office know.

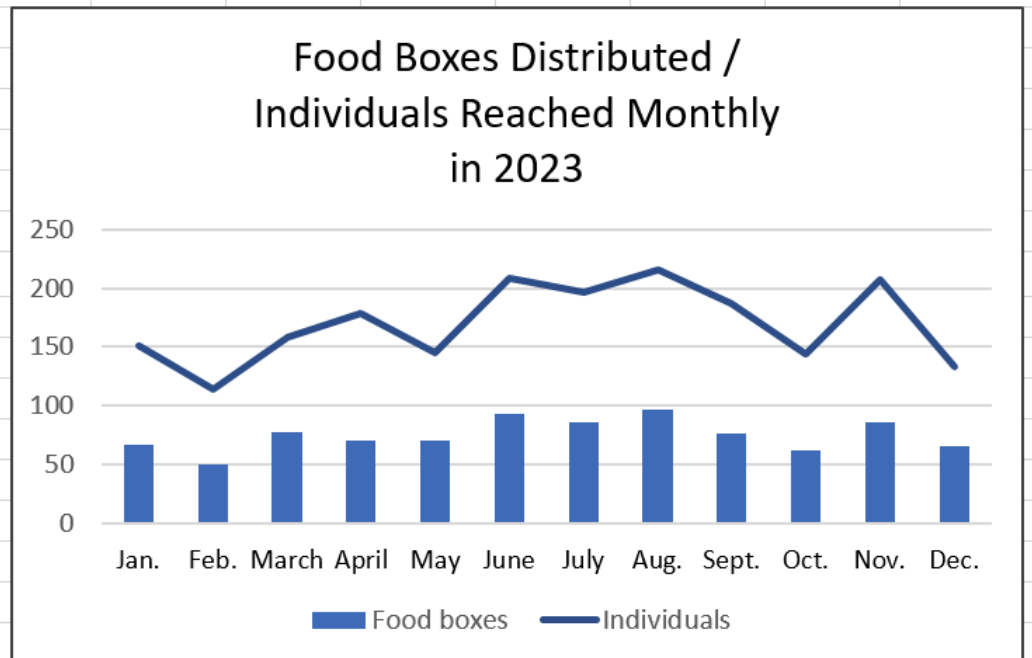
Your contributions, and your pledges during this campaign, will enable us to continue our vital mission and ministries in the year ahead, such as providing food to people in need, clothes to children who are cold, support for those who are mourning, and companionship to the lonely. Together, we can make a lasting impact and ensure that our church remains a beacon of hope and love in our community. Thank you for your generous support!

## 2023 VRUMC Food Pantry Statistics

**Between 1/5/23 and 12/28/23, the Velda Rose UMC Food Pantry dispersed 902 food boxes and reached 2,038 individuals\*.** (Not included in this total are emergency homeless food bags occasionally distributed throughout the year.) **This could not have been possible without your generous monetary and food donations. Thank you!**

If you'd like to help us address food insecurity in our community by donating to the Velda Rose UMC Food Pantry,

they are currently accepting canned chicken, granola bars, soup, crackers, spam, spaghetti & sauce, single-can meals, canned vegetables, jelly, and peanut butter during pantry hours (Mondays & Thursdays 9:30 to 11:30 AM).



\*Totals updated after the Jan. 2024 *Vision* newsletter mailing.



## Wednesday Afternoon/Evening Study

### WE'VE ALL HEARD IT, "YOU'RE HERE FOR A REASON."

But do you wonder what the reason is? Do you want to feel more purpose, more passion, or even, to hear God's voice in your life?

Beginning on January 10, 2024, we will look for answers as we study *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion*.

We are hungry for a sense of purpose, direction, and calling in our lives. That's as basic an ingredient to the human experience as they come. We want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. We want to participate in something that has eternal merit and lasting impact. We do not want to live a shallow, hollow existence. We yearn for deeper meaning, for deeper purpose within our lives. We want to be more than we are.

In *On Purpose: Finding God's Voice in Your Passion*, authors Magrey deVega, Sam McGlothlin, Jevon Caldwell-Gross, and Susan Robb help us see God's purpose for our lives, how to open ourselves to God's voice, and how to take the first or next step to follow God's call. Reading this book and exploring life

choices alongside others, individuals will learn how to channel their passions, hear God's voice, and live the life they were meant to live.

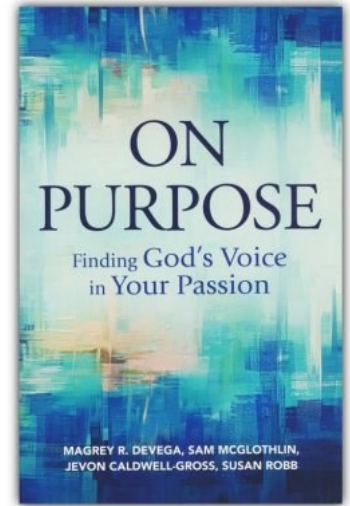
This four-week class meets at 4 pm beginning on January 10th, with dinner to follow (Chili potluck on Jan 17! See p. 10.)

The class and dinners are free. The books are \$15. Assistance is available.

Sign up in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, or contact the church office. A goodwill offering is welcomed to offset the cost of the supplies for the dinner. We are also accepting volunteers to cook.

To learn more, watch the video about the study at:

<http://tinyurl.com/VRUMCJanStudy>



## January Sunday Services and Wednesday Online Meditations

### JANUARY 7

*Embracing Life's Seasons*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  
Psalm 92:12-15

### JANUARY 14

*Time:*  
*Our Most Precious Resource*  
Ephesians 5:15-16  
Psalm 90:12

### JANUARY 21-UWF SUNDAY

*Legacy and Leaving a Mark*  
Proverbs 13:22;  
Matthew 5:16, 25:31-46

### JANUARY 28

*Navigating Retirement:  
Financial Wellness*  
Prov. 21:20, 1 Tim. 6:17-19

### **10:00 AM WEDNESDAY ONLINE DEVOTIONS**

1/3—*Holy Community: Humans  
and All ...in God's Web of Life*  
Gen. 9:8-17, Rom. 8:20-22  
Col. 3:12-15

1/10—*Sacred Spaces:  
Finding God in Nature*  
Psalm 19

1/17—*Mind, Body, and Spirit:  
Holistic Health*  
Daniel 1

1/24—*Caring for the Least of  
These: Creation and Compassion*  
Matthew 25:31-46

1/31—*Sustainable Living:  
Faith in Action*  
Ezekiel 34:17-24

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

# United Women in Faith



United Women in Faith

## END OF THE YEAR UNIT MEETING



On December 7, UWF had its end of the year meeting. We visited with other members as we enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon. Later, Pat Nixon led the members in a wonderful program in which Kathy Kolbo read selected passages from Isaiah, Luke and Matthew unfolding the Christmas Story.



The rest of the group sang Christmas carols while putting together a nativity scene during the readings.



Many thanks to K Roemmich who played the piano to accompany the singing.



At the end of the program, we had a surprise visit from Santa's elves (Carla Burman and Gayle Ottman) who distributed yummy treats. What fun we all had!

## CHANGES TO THE 2024 OFFICERS ELECTED FOR VELDA ROSE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

At the December unit meeting, slight changes were made to the officers serving in 2024 as follows:

Winter President:	Pat Nixon
Summer President:	Billie Larime
Secretary:	Pat Goss
Representative to VRUMC Governance Board:	Billie Larime

In addition, Lynda Boysen will be the Prayer Chain Chair for both UWF and for Velda Rose UMC. All other officers remain the same as previously reported in December's Vision article.

## 2024 READING PROGRAM



The books are in for the UWF 2024 Reading Program. Please stop by the

Library, check out a book and take it home for an interesting read!

## IMPORTANT DATES:

January 4: Unit Meeting in Moore Hall at 11:30 am – Installation of officers, Susanna Wesley (John Wesley's mother) Presentation - Potluck  
January 7: Last Day to Deliver Advent Calendar Baby and Food Items  
January 20: East District UWF Leadership Event at Tempe First UMC (continued on page 7)  
January 21: UWF Sunday at Velda Rose United



## United Women in Faith, continued

Methodist Church

January 23: UWF Executive Board Meeting at 9:00 am in Moore Hall

### A BIG THANK YOU!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who made my year as President of Velda Rose United Women in Faith an enjoyable and positive experience. I had help from so many people including my wonderful Executive Board, Pastor Ann Lyter, Ron Roberts for his for technical support, Jessica Brooks in the church office and the facilities

personnel who set up Moore Hall for each meeting. I cherish the friendships I made as I became better acquainted with UWF members (who are a terrific group of women!) as well as the friends I made while working in the Mission Warehouse. I'll miss you all, but I'll see you soon as I intend to work at the February rummage sale!

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

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

## United Women in Faith Thanks You!



On behalf of the Velda Rose Women of Faith, I want to thank everyone who donated either in cash or

actual items to this yearly project. We feel very blessed to be able to make nearly 600 little children have a happier Christmas. Your support, and funding from the "Rummage" sales make this



forget to save those travel size items for next year's Stocking Project.

Blessings,  
Arlene Oisten  
VRUWF Stocking Project  
Chairperson



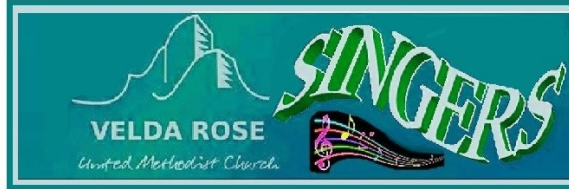
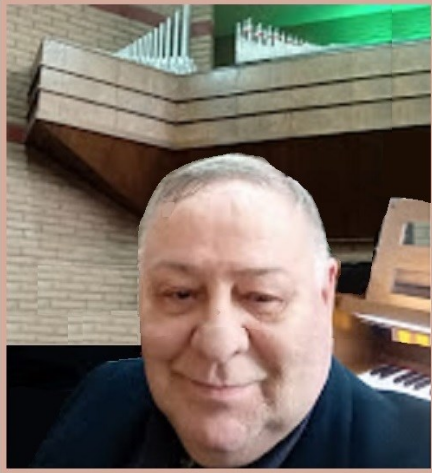
project possible.

Trusting you all had a wonderful Christmas and best wishes for a great 2024. Don't



Getting there! About an hour into stuffing the stockings

## Music Arts Director, JB Brown



The choir's new name is "Velda Rose Singers" and we had a successful start to the new choral season, lasting from October thru Easter. Regarding the organ - I used the many choices of bells so much during Christmas time, I was afraid I'd wear them out, except they're digital samples! We need more sinners, especially Sopranos, Tenors, and Basses.



## Leap to Donate Blood on February 29

Schedule  
to Donate Today



In December, Velda Rose UMC, it's members and the surrounding community donated 22 units of blood! That's at least 22 lives saved because we made space available and supported the blood drive. That brings our total 106 units of blood!

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

I just signed up for the first appointment! To sign up, scan the QR code or go to <http://tinyurl.com/Febblooddr>. Or I can sign you up, if you prefer. Will you join me and help save lives?



*Pastor Ann*

## Online Wednesday Meditations



Enjoy the wonder of God's world as we explore the timeless wisdom of scriptures and discover how they resonate with our lives today, with meditation that deepens your connection to the Divine, inspires sustainable living, stewardship of the Earth, and holistic well-being. Whether you're a seasoned believer or just starting on your spiritual path, you are invited to experience the power of faith in action. The meditations are posted by Wednesday at 10 am most weeks (subject to technical difficulties). You can help publicize the series and our church by sharing the videos, liking them, and responding in the comments. Available on Facebook ([facebook.com/veldaroseumc](https://facebook.com/veldaroseumc)) and YouTube ([youtube.com/@veldaroseunitedmethodistchurch](https://youtube.com/@veldaroseunitedmethodistchurch)).





## Conflict Management & Rebuilding Trust: East & West District Leadership Conference 2024



The East & West Districts Leadership Conference will occur on Saturday, February 3, 2024 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at [Cross in the Desert UMC](#) in Phoenix, AZ.

In our workshop, we will explore the five conflict management styles, take an informal conflict management style assessment, and explore ways to manage conflict. Then we will explore the role of trust, credibility, and power in organizational culture, and consider what individuals and organizations can do when trust breaks down.

Cost: \$30

To register, go to <https://dscumc.org/event/east-west-districts-leadership-conference-2024>.

Please contact Jeannine Marinoni at the District Office with any questions at [jmarinoni@dscumc.org](mailto:jmarinoni@dscumc.org).

**Speaker:** Rev. April Casperson,  
Director of Enrollment  
Management Methodist  
Theological School in Ohio



Rev. April Casperson serves as the Director of Enrollment Management at [Methodist Theological School in Ohio](#), and a diversity and inclusion consultant. She previously served as Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the West Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church. She is an ordained deacon passionate about diversity and inclusion, vocational discernment, and the organizations and systems that recruit, educate, and equip leaders for thoughtful, intentional ministry. Rev. Casperson previously served as VP of Institutional Advancement at Methodist Theological School in Ohio.

Please contact Jeannine Marinoni at the District Office with any questions at [jmarinoni@dscumc.org](mailto:jmarinoni@dscumc.org).

## The Coming Year

### THE COMING YEAR

Father, for this coming year,  
These things I would pray;  
Since You know what lies ahead,  
Lord, please guide our way.

Thank You for this untouched year—  
Chance for brand new starts;  
When Your blessings we ignore,  
Give us grateful hearts.

If this year should test our faith,  
Give us strength anew;  
When our goals become earthbound,  
Turn our eyes to You.

Father, for this coming year,  
Grant this prayer of mine...  
Day by day may our words be:  
“Not my will, but Thine.”

- Connie Hinnen

## United Methodist Men

THE FORECAST for January is chilly outside and chili inside!



The UMMM group will host a potluck chili dinner in Moore Hall on 17 Jan starting at 5:30 PM.

Participants should bring a pot of their favorite chili creation, side order, or dessert. A good will offering will be accepted from those who prefer not to bring a food item. See you there!



## Submit a Recipe for the Vision

FOR A YEAR and a half now, I have been sharing a recipe every month that ties somehow into the monthly newsletter article. But the Thanksgiving potluck showed just how many wonderful cooks are in our congregation. Would you be



willing to share some of your favorite recipes? If so, bring them to the office, or send them to me at [pastorann@veldarose.org](mailto:pastorann@veldarose.org). I look forward to being inspired by the wonderful cooks at Velda Rose UMC.

## Cooking for Health: Quinoa & Vegetable Stir-Fry

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup quinoa
- 1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce or tamari (gluten-free)
- 2 Tbs honey or maple syrup
- 1 tsp grated fresh ginger
- 1/2 tsp red pepper flakes
- 2 Tbs olive or avocado oil
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1 carrot, thinly sliced
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 1 cup snap peas or snow peas, trimmed
- 1 cup sliced mushrooms
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Chopped fresh cilantro or green onions for garnish (optional)

1. Cook 1 Cup quinoa according to package.
2. In a small bowl, whisk together the soy sauce (or tamari), honey (or maple syrup), grated ginger, and red pepper flakes to make the stir-fry sauce. Adjust the sweetness and spiciness to your liking.
3. Heat the oil in a large skillet or wok over medium-high heat. Add the diced onion sauté for 2-3 minutes until they become fragrant and slightly translucent.
4. Add the sliced bell pepper, carrot, broccoli florets, snap/snow peas, and mushrooms to the skillet. Stir-fry the vegetables for 5-7 minutes or until they are tender-crisp and slightly caramelized.
5. Add the garlic, cook until it is fragrant.

6. Pour the stir-fry sauce over the cooked vegetables and stir well to coat all the vegetables evenly. Cook for an additional 1-2 minutes to heat the sauce thoroughly.
7. Add the cooked quinoa to the skillet and toss everything together. Cook for another 2-3 minutes, allowing the quinoa to absorb the flavors and heat through. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
8. Remove from heat and garnish with chopped fresh cilantro or green onions if desired.

Serve your healthy quinoa and vegetable stir-fry hot and enjoy a nutritious meal to kick off the New Year! Pastor Ann



## Donations Needed for ABC Program

**Mesa, AZ** – MESA RESIDENTS CAN HELP their community during the holiday season and year-round through the ABC: A Better Community utility donation program. This City of Mesa initiative provides shelter, meals, and other essential services to Mesa children, families, and seniors facing economic challenges. Donating to ABC is easy. City of Mesa utility customers can contribute by automatically donating money with their monthly utility bill payments. People can also round up the dollar on your utility bill or contribute a one-time amount.

For the 23/24 fiscal year, the City has allocated ABC grant money to five non-profit agencies:

- Boys & Girls Club of the Valley - provides out of school time mentoring, academic success, daily snacks and meals to Mesa community members
- Copa Health - provides career counseling/assessment, resume building, employment coaching and creates service plans and goals to Mesa community members in need
- Catholic Charities Community Services - provides outreach services, counseling, shelter bed nights and case management/support groups to Mesa community members who are struggling
- Homeless Youth Connection - provides case management services, assistance with graduating from high school, safe and stable housing to Mesa Youth who are homeless
- Paz des Cristo - helps provide meals, food, clothing, showers, and other services to Mesa



community members struggling with hunger, poverty, and homelessness

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

- Feed: 127,725 residents with meals
- Clothe: clean clothes and a hot shower to get a fresh start
- Empower: help people find jobs and remove barriers to get ahead

The ABC: A Better Community program assisted 127,725 Mesa residents during the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Non Mesa Utility Customers can donate online by visiting at [mesaaz.gov/abc](https://mesaaz.gov/abc) and using our “Donate Now” and “Donate Via Utility Bill” buttons. Payment types accepted are credit/debit cards. Mesa also accepts donations over the phone by calling 480-644-2221 (Monday-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** with the name of the program, “ABC: A Better Community,” in the memo area.

## Contact Us Using Our Website!



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

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

# A Christmas Thank You

What began as an idea to say “thank you” to the congregation, deserves a great big “Thank You” from all of us.

So THANK YOU, Velda Rose UMMM, for your delicious and generous idea of providing Christmas Cookies on Christmas Eve morning! Yum! Yum!

And THANK YOU, Velda Rose UWF and others who helped out with all the mixing, and the scooping, and the baking, and the packaging.



THANK YOU





## From the Archives

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

- Did You Know that VRUMC's newsletter used to be called the Velda Rose United Methodist Church *Messenger*? Until the August 2002 edition of the *Messenger*, that is, when a contest for a "new look and new name" for the newsletter was announced.

A month later, the September 2002 edition introduced the new name, *The Vision* (submitted by Joy R.).

- According to VRUMC's 1984 20th anniversary church directory, "When Reverend Douglass arrived, he started two precedents: a rose on the pulpit designates

*the birth of a child; carnations are presented to retiring officers of the United Methodist Women."*

We will delve deeper into the history of Rev. Kent Douglass and other foundational pastors of VRUMC in upcoming issues.

But first... In what year was it announced that the carillon chimes were to be placed in the tower, "a gift to the church from one of our church families"? And just what, according to the 1966 *Velda Rose* newsletter, averaged "25 youngsters daily" and was also a "popular site for picnics, bar-b-ques and classes"?

Come back next month to find out!



## Prayer

*Prayer*

church office.

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

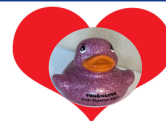
*in loving memory*

Joyce Damron  
9/26/2023  
Rev. Mel Munchinsky  
12/15/2023

Shepherd of the Pines, UMC Overgaard  
Spirit of Joy UMC, Coolidge

Song of Life UMC, Queen Creek  
St. Matthew UMC, Mesa

Our LOVE prayer focus:  
North Scottsdale United Methodist Church



## Walk to Emmaus February 2024



THE WALK TO EMMAUS CAN BE A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE.

Both men's and women's walks are scheduled for February 2024 in the Phoenix area at Lakeview UMC in Sun City, AZ.

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

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

Sponsor information for Pilgrims can be found on the website at [www.azemmaus.org](http://www.azemmaus.org).

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

A team member's cost is \$125.00.

Scholarships may be available. Contact the AZ Walk to Emmaus office at 623.937.9391 or visit them at [www.azemmaus.org](http://www.azemmaus.org).

## The Green Team



### FROM THE GREEN TEAM...

We hope you all had a blessed Christmas and we want to wish you a Happy, healthy and safe

2024. We are looking forward to a New Beginning. God Bless you all. ~ The Green Team

**EARTHDAY.ORG ANNOUNCES OFFICIAL 2024 EARTH DAY THEME** EARTHDAY.ORG, the global organizer of Earth Day, has announced the global theme for Earth Day 2024: *Planet vs. Plastics*.

*Planet vs. Plastics* unites students, parents, businesses, governments, churches, unions, individuals, and NGOs in an unwavering commitment to call for the end of plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of plastics by 2040 and an ultimate goal of building a plastic-free future for generations to come.

To achieve a 60% reduction by 2040, EARTHDAY.ORG's goals are: (1) promoting widespread public awareness of the damage done by plastic to human, animal, and all biodiversity's health and demanding more research be conducted on its health

implications, including the release of any and all information regarding its effects to the public; (2) rapidly phasing out all single use plastics by 2030 and achieving this phase out commitment in the United Nations Treaty on Plastic Pollution in 2024; (3) demanding policies ending the scourge of fast fashion and the vast amount of plastic it produces and uses; and (4) investing in innovative technologies and materials to build a plastic-free world.

"The word environment means what surrounds you. Now plastics do more than surround us; we have become the product itself- it flows through our blood stream, adheres to our internal organs, and carries with it heavy metals known to cause cancer and disease. Now this once-thought amazing and useful product has become something else, and our health and that of all other living creatures hangs in the balance," said Kathleen Rogers, President of EARTHDAY.ORG. "The *Planet vs. Plastics* campaign is a call to arms, a demand that we act now to end the scourge of plastics and safeguard the health of every living being upon our planet."

For more information, go to <https://www.earthday.org/press-release/planet-vs-plasticsglobal-theme-for-earth-day-2024/>.





Connie Zimmerman	1/1	SooHwan Kim	1/16
Lee Nixon	1/3	Suzi Reed	1/16
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	LaVerne Roberg	1/21
Cliff Lowum	1/12	Wes Roose	1/21
Pat Schmitt	1/13	Norma Winslow	1/25
Paula Latu	1/14	Robert Maumatapule	1/26
Carol Ball	1/16	Deirdre Poyer	1/30



## Anniversaries

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



# 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)

#### 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



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## 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



Items considered for the February Vision must be submitted to  
[officeadmin@veldarose.org](mailto:officeadmin@veldarose.org) by **Tuesday, January 9, 2024.**