

# The Vision

Volume 17, Issue 6

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

June 2024

## The Hope By Rev. Chan Kim

On June 23, 2018, 12 members of a youth soccer team and their coach were trapped in the Tham Luang cave in Chiang Rai province, Thailand. The 10 km long cave is a popular tourist attraction. After soccer training, they went sightseeing in the cave but were unable to leave due to a sudden rise in water levels, eventually becoming trapped inside.

It was confirmed that all of them were alive on July 2, ten days after they went missing. The reason the 12 boys, aged 11-16, and their 25-year-old coach survived with almost no food was hope. They survived by drinking water and sharing small amounts of snacks equally. Most importantly, the coach's words of hope—"we will get out alive" and "we will overcome the darkness and fear of death"—helped them endure hunger and fear.

They took turns digging the ground without any special tools, managing to dig 5 meters. This digging was not just a desperate survival attempt but also a way to hold onto hope. Without seeing the sunrise or sunset, they lost track of days. Counting the days or expecting rescue could lead to resentment and blame. In the darkness, only hope and mutual love gave them strength.

A cave with no light is unimaginably dark. Fortunately, they had a lantern, and the coach conserved the battery by using it only to shine on stalactites for drinking water. Water on the cave floor contained harmful substances, so he had them drink clean water dripping from the stalactites. This wisdom helped them survive until their rescue after 17 days. In harsh conditions, hope was everything to them.



A similar incident occurred in a coal mine where a tunnel collapse trapped people on both sides. The rescue operation broke through both sides almost simultaneously. Surprisingly, the people on one side were all alive, while those on the other

side were dead. The reason was not a lack of air or water. An investigation revealed that one side had a working telephone line, while the other side's line was cut. Those with the working line received hopeful updates from the rescue team. Words like "Are you alive?" and "We're digging through!" "The crane has arrived." kept them going. Both sides had the same conditions, but those who heard words of hope survived, while those who didn't, died. The key is hope.

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.” (Hebrews 10:23)

## Looking Ahead with Pastor Ann

HERE IS A PREVIEW of what I have planned for worship when I return. In July and August, I am planning worship based in humor. We will look at how the rules of improv are really basic rules of faith, and how God really **MUST** have a sense of humor. Those who are interested will have a chance to take an improv class. We have a limited number of tickets for a “Drop In Improv Workshop” on July 27 at 5 pm. The workshop is at the Neighborhood Comedy Theatre in Mesa. Sign-up early so we can get additional tickets if needed.

Other activities that are in the early planning stages are: Laughter Yoga and comedy movie night(s). If you have a well-developed funny bone, or particularly good timing, and would like to be part of this worship series, just let the office know and I will reach out to you when I return.

Come September, we will move into the Season of Creation, a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversation, and commitment together. During



the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home. The theme for 2024 is, “To hope and act with Creation.” More details about this series will be available in the summer. If

you are interested in ecology, a message of hope, being good stewards of creation, and would like to be involved in planning and presenting worship in the Season of Creation, please let the office know. You can join me and the Green Team in August when we put the finishing touches on this worship series.

And in October and November, we will be looking at what many consider the most confusing book in the Bible—Revelation. Our worship series will focus on Revelation and what

## WORSHIP

God has to say to us now through this book. The Wednesday

Bible study will be on Revelation, in support of the worship series, but also to expand our understanding.

And before we know it, it will be time to start preparing for Advent and Christmas—soon after I return from my leave. I would love to see a large team work to make Advent and Christmas 2024, a celebration of the Incarnation that makes it new for everyone who knows it well, and irresistible to those who have never heard the good news before. There will be more information as we head towards fall.

## AZ Celebration of Freedom

MESA, AZ – MESA SEEKS VOLUNTEERS for the AT&T Fiber Arizona Celebration of Freedom, the coolest independence festival in the state! There are multiple times and shifts available including splash zone, carnival games, entertainment and information booths.

Volunteers will receive a commemorative t-shirt (while supplies last), plenty of snacks and cold drinks during their shift and are entered into a raffle for awesome prizes. Volunteers must be 16 years of age or 14 if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Sign up to volunteer.

The AT&T Fiber Arizona Celebration of Freedom is Thursday, July 4, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Mesa Convention Center and Mesa Amphitheatre, 263 N. Center St. The biggest and best free patriotic event in Arizona includes live music, a classic car show, BMX stunt riders, a Revolutionary War reenactment and family fun. The event culminates with a Salute to America and spectacular fireworks show. Watch for more details at [azcelebrationoffreedom.com](http://azcelebrationoffreedom.com).

## June Sunday Services

### JUNE 2

Guest Preacher:  
Rev. Albert Bolden  
9:30 AM

### JUNE 16

Hymn Sing Sunday  
9:30 AM

### JUNE 30

Guest Preacher:  
Trinity Donovan  
9:30 AM

### JUNE 9

Guest Preacher:  
Mark Lansberry  
9:30 AM

### JUNE 23

Guest Preacher:  
Mark Lansberry  
9:30 AM

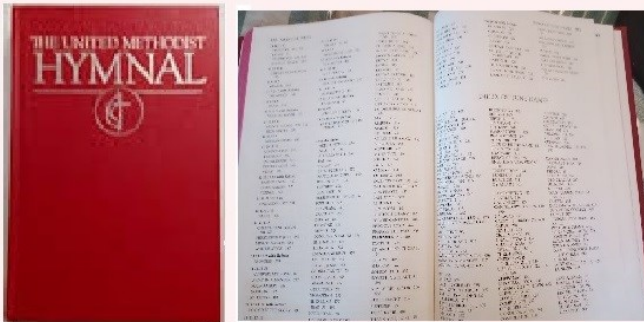
### **10:00 AM WEDNESDAY**

#### **ONLINE DEVOTIONS:**

*We will rerun previous devotions during this time slot while Pastor Ann is on leave.*

## Hymn Sing Sunday 6/16

## Wednesday Studies



Going where no one has gone before ....

**HYMN-SING SUNDAY with JB**  
Everything you ever wanted to know about the back of the Hymnal but were afraid to ask !  
Oh, and by the way it's a good old fashioned hymn-sing too.

- ★ Nice cushy pews
- ★ Free coffee & cookies
- ★ A half-way decent organist
- ★ Great Hymns of the Church

**SUNDAY, JUNE 16th 9:30am**

### Wednesday Afternoon Study— on hiatus until late summer

WITH PASTOR ANN ON LEAVE, and so many of our winter residents, and even the year-round residents, heading for cooler climates, our Wednesday afternoon study will be on break until late summer/early fall. The next study topic and dates will be announced in late July/August, to start in mid-August at the earliest, or possibly in September.



# United Women in Faith



## United Women in Faith

**SUNSHINE ACRES OF MESA:** The United Women of Faith at Velda Rose has helped the

Ecumenical work of Church Women United of Mesa for at least the last decade. On May 3, 2024, members of 4 different local churches, First Presbyterian of Mesa, St. Matthew UMC, Christ the King Catholic Church, and Velda Rose UMC took a guided fieldtrip to Sunshine Acres of Mesa, established in 1953 at its current location in the desert.

For more than a decade, Church Women United of Mesa has faithfully given donations to help the children of Sunshine Acres. The original founders, James and Vera Dingman, had prayed and dedicated their lives to serve God in 1928. They asked God to give them a job nobody else wanted.

Sunshine Acres is a long-term residential home for children whose families are unable to provide care for a variety of reasons. The ages of the children are generally between 5-15 years at the time of admission. This Christian Home is unique in that it does not receive any State Aid. Donations are not solicited. The current beauty of this campus shows how much these homeless children are loved and how well they are cared for.

Our guide took us on the fieldtrip with the help of a golf cart. We were able to view the inside décor of two cottages that served ten children and 2 house parents each. Donations from the community made possible the beautiful homes on the campus and all the following: the original Chapel, the children's cottages, a swimming pool, barns for the horses, playgrounds, sport equipment, Library for afterschool tutoring, and a beautiful meditation garden. Please enjoy the beautiful pictures I took on the trip (on page 5).

*Billie Larime, Treasurer of Church Women United of Mesa reporting.*

**MISSION U 2024:** The Virtual Event will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> & July 20<sup>th</sup> by ZOOM for the Adult Study "Welcome Home" by Neomi Fletcher. The schedule for July 19th is on a Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with a half-hour Dinner Break. The schedule for July 20th is a Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a half-hour Lunch Break.



If you missed the In-Person Mission u in Payson on June 21<sup>st</sup> and June 22<sup>nd</sup>, there is still time to register for the Virtual Event. If you need information and help with registration,

contact Billie Larime, Mission u Dean. From our Velda Rose Unit we are helping Tish Roberts and Grace Van Brunt to attend the Virtual Mission u this summer.

**READING PROGRAM UNITED WOMAN IN FAITH:** May I suggest the following book: *Carved in Ebony: Lessons from the Black Women Who Shape us* by Jasmine L. Homes. Available at the Velda Rose Library for check-out. This book helps us to discover how Black Women have helped define the landscape of American history and Faith. You may not recognize the names, but they worked to change laws, build schools, and spoke to thousands. We have both the Adult Version and a Youth Version in the Library.

**"OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH" is open to all Women.**

When: Friday June 14, 2024  
Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Where: Macayo's Mexican Food  
6538 E. Superstition Springs Blvd.  
Mesa, AZ 85206

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Contact Mitzi Pearce or the church office.

# UWF Continued: Sunshine Acres of Mesa



The Greenhouse



Kitchen and living room in Children's Cottage for 10.



Playgrounds



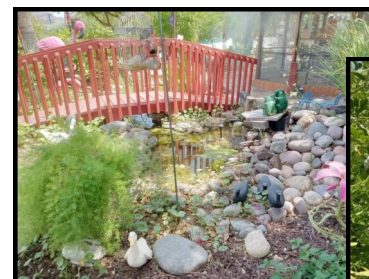
Members of Church Women United, Mesa



Playground



Some of the two-children bedrooms



"God's Garden"



# United Methodist Men

## - MONTHLY

### MEETING:

The next UMMM monthly meeting will be 3 June, 1130-1300, in the Library.

### - JUNE ICE CREAM SOCIAL:

This month's social will be on 19 June, 6-8 PM, in the Library.

### - PRODUCE GIVEAWAY:

The Borderlands Produce

Redistribution office announced that they would continue their present level of operations through the end of June, and at a reduced level for the



United Methodist Men's  
**Ice Cream Social**

**BUILD YOUR OWN SUNDAE!**

 **Wednesday**  
**June 19 @ 6 PM**

 **Library**

**TICKETS** 

**Tickets are \$5 and are on sale now!**

rest of the summer. This month's produce giveaway will be June 22 at 9 AM.

### - 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION:

At 5 PM we will have a cook-out under the covered walkway that leads to the main entrance of the sanctuary. Planned entertainment includes a short rededication ceremony for

the renovated Memorial Fountain patio. Check the Sunday bulletins for more details.

# Velda Rose UMC Food Pantry

## OUR FOOD PANTRY CURRENTLY NEEDS:

- ◆ Can openers
- ◆ Spaghetti noodles & sauce
- ◆ Spam
- ◆ Vienna sausages
- ◆ Canned chicken or tuna
- ◆ Mac-n-cheese
- ◆ Canned meals
- ◆ Jelly / jam
- ◆ Peanut butter
- ◆ Pancake mix & syrup
- ◆ Fruit / applesauce
- ◆ Pudding cups
- ◆ Canned peas

- ◆ Corn / green beans / diced tomatoes
- ◆ Canned fruit cocktail / canned pears / peaches
- ◆ Canned pinto, black, or pork & beans
- ◆ Canned soup (tomato, chicken noodle, beef vegetable)
- ◆ Granola bars



Donations are received at the Food Pantry Mondays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30 am.

# The 40th Annual Desert Southwest Conference

THE DESERT SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE is taking place at the Tucson Convention Center this year on June 13-16, 2024.

The theme is Making A Way, inspired by Isaiah 43:18-19, Jeremiah 29:4-7, and 10-14. This will be our 40th Session and will

include an emphasis on where we came from and an invitation to dream of what's next for our next 40 years of ministry. This anniversary Session will occur shortly after the postponed General Conference.

There will be much to reflect on, much to pray about, and many celebrations and opportunities to honor those who have passed on, to honor those who are retiring this year, and to honor those who are beginning a new chapter in ministry. As we did in the days of John Wesley, voting members will gather,

honoring the Methodist tradition of holy conferencing, coming together for worship, discussion, and fellowship, deepening our connection to God and growing in the grace of God.



## The Green Team



THE GREEN TEAM WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME Tim Most as the newest member of our Green Team. Tim is very active in our church and he wears many hats. He is full of great ideas on all things Environmental.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet in the church library the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 1:00 PM.

A big thank you to all who attended our Earth Day Celebration on April 14<sup>th</sup> and helped to make it another successful event.

We hope you all had a good time and were able to learn something new. Remember to "Learn something new each day" and while you are at it,

remember to "Do something good for the Earth each day."

We send a special thank you to Tanya Hughes from SRP for her very helpful talk on how to save more energy and save dollars on our monthly bills. SRP has been kind enough to gift a tree to Velda Rose UMC. We are very excited about this and we will keep you updated as to when it is planted. We also hope to have updated photos of its progress periodically.

The Green Team will be having a table in the back of the church with information on different subjects each month. June will be all about Food Waste. Stop by, and check us out.

# Mesa Hydration Donation Campaign

## MESA HYDRATION DONATION CAMPAIGN OFF TO STRONG START TO SAVE LIVES

*Earlier start with higher than normal summer temperatures expected*

**Mesa, AZ** – Mesa’s annual [Hydration Donation Campaign](#) is starting a month earlier in an effort to save more lives during Arizona’s extreme heat season. With a record number of heat-related deaths in Maricopa County in 2023 and the National Weather Service predicting above-normal temperatures during the 2024 heat season, City, community and business partners have started collecting life-saving bottles of water. The campaign kicked off with donations of 38,400 bottles of water from Walmart stores in Mesa and 30,240 bottles from Niagara Bottling. Despite the strong start, Mesa’s community partners are urging the public to help collect 700,000 bottles of water from now through Sept. 27 to help Mesa’s most vulnerable residents.

“It’s amazing to see the generosity during the Mesa Hydration Donation Campaign,” said Vice Mayor Francisco Heredia. “Last summer was one of the hottest on record. As the temperatures rise, let’s all pitch in by donating water bottles to ensure nobody goes thirsty in the summer heat. It’s a real lifesaver for those who need it most.”

“United Food Bank has a firsthand understanding of the crucial importance of the hydration donation campaign. As Board Member and Councilmember, I witness the direct impact of the Mesa Hydration Donation campaign on our most vulnerable residents,” said Councilmember Julie Spilsbury.

United Food Bank distributes donated water to numerous nonprofit organizations in Mesa and

throughout the valley, including Paz De Cristo, Mesa United Way and A New Leaf-East Valley Men’s Center.

Mesa’s Hydration Donation campaign has been saving lives since 2007 during Arizona’s extremely hot summers. Since the campaign began, the Mesa community has donated more than 6.6 million bottles of water.



“The Arizona summer months are known for their extreme heat, and we want to make sure each of our neighbors has plenty of water to stay hydrated,” said Jason Reed, the president and CEO of United Food Bank. “We are thrilled to once again be partnering with the City of Mesa for this annual water drive. We hope you join us by making a monetary or water donation to help provide our community the water they

need throughout the summer.”

The start of the Mesa Hydration Donation campaign coincides with [Arizona Heat Awareness Week](#) (May 6-10) and is a stark reminder of the dangers of summer heat in Arizona.

“The risks of dehydration are great for anyone exposed to the triple-digit temperatures, especially those who are unsheltered or don’t have a place to easily get out of the sun,” said Robert Campa, Emergency Manager with the Mesa Fire and Medical Department, Office of Emergency Management. “Without donations of water, the outcomes of our emergency responses to cases of dehydration, heat exhaustion or heat stroke would be much worse.”

Resurrection Street Ministry (RSM), located at 1135 E. Main St., is one of the water donation drop-off locations and (continued on next page)



## Mesa Hydration Donation Campaign, continued

will also be a Day Respite Center from May 20 through September, six days a week. RSM will provide respite and services, including water, food, air conditioning, navigation services, showers, laundry and more.

“We see people come in off the streets daily needing water, food, a place to get out of the heat and to get other types of assistance. The donations of water we get from the community are critical, and we are so grateful to United Food Bank and the residents of Mesa who make such a difference,” said Bill Berry, RSM Volunteer Executive Director.

RSM is looking for volunteers to guide the visitors to the different respite services or to simply be a friend. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Mark Dye at [markdyersm@gmail.com](mailto:markdyersm@gmail.com) for more information.

Residents can donate water at various drop-off locations throughout the City. The complete list

of locations is available at [www.mesaaz.gov/H2OMesa](http://www.mesaaz.gov/H2OMesa). Cash donations are also accepted by [United Food Bank](#).

Another way to boost donations is the One Ton Water Challenge. Promoted by the Mesa Chamber of Commerce, United Food Bank and the City of Mesa, it challenges businesses, residents and organizations to buy a pallet of water, which weighs more than one ton, for approximately \$210. Individuals can split the cost so it's just over 100 dollars each. To donate a pallet, contact Mandy Hodges at [mhodes@unitedfoodbank.org](mailto:mhodes@unitedfoodbank.org). You can also donate a pallet in person by simply scanning your card at the Klaus Team Real Estate office at 2919 S Ellsworth Rd #133 in Mesa. The campaign has already received pallets of water donated by several businesses, including Walmart and Niagara Bottling.

The Mesa Hydration Donation Campaign will be collecting water until Friday, Sept. 27.

## Prayer

*Prayer*

NEED PRAYER? To be added to the United Women in Faith prayer chain, call Lynda Boysen at 480-259-8167, or contact the church office.

**Our LOVE prayer focus:  
North Scottsdale United Methodist**



Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference  
Chaplains, Counselors & Staff of the East District  
Staff & Churches of the West District, North District, & South District

## From the Archives

**IN CELEBRATION OF VELDA ROSE UMC'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY, we will be sharing history from the archives in *The Vision* newsletters.**

*(The following is taken from an interview of Rev. and Mrs. Moore in 1983, after they retired from Velda Rose and were serving at First Church Mesa. \*)*

It was February, 1964, when then District Superintendent (DS) of the Tucson District, Dr. Chilton McPheeters, invited the Minister of Evangelism at Catalina Methodist Church in Tucson, Rev. J. Erben Moore, to drive up to Mesa with him. Rev. Moore was shown nine acres of property with two old houses, one having a swimming pool, at 56th Street and Apache Trail. Apache Trail, at that time also known as U.S. 60, 70, 80, and 89, is now known as Main Street. (The Superstition Freeway, now also known as U.S. 60, did not exist way back then.)

The nine acres stretched northward all the way to Boston Street. The Conference had paid down \$66,000 on it which cost \$130,000. Dr. McPheeters asked Rev. Moore, "How would you like to pastor a church on this property?" He answered, "I will pray about it." The DS said, "You'd better pray fast, for Bishop Kennedy has already appointed you!"

So Catalina Church "loaned" Rev. Moore to the project until May 1, the effective date of the appointment. John Leeing, a Catalina layman, helped Rev. Moore canvas the area and distribute leaflets to seek out prospective Methodists.

Together they located a place of worship at the then Velda Rose Motel. It was already being used by the Presbyterians, but the motel owner, Dave Morgan, "worked them in."



They started services there on March 15, 1964, at 9:00 am with 169 people in attendance. The first Easter Service for this new church was March 29, 1964, at 6:00 am.

All this time, Rev. Moore and John Leeing were commuting from Tucson. They brought their bedrolls and slept on the floor in a vacant house at 138 N. 59th St. in Dreamland Villa, which later became the parsonage. Dave Morgan, the owner, offered to let the church assume the mortgage of \$19,716.85 at 6% with no down payment.

Mrs. Moore at first resisted the move from Tucson to Mesa and told Dr. McPheeters so, but she relented and told him she would follow her husband to wherever he went. Her reaction to the parsonage: "When we got that home on 59th Street in Dreamland Villa, there were not any homes east of there. All the homes there now have been built since. When I looked at it, and it was desert, I said I now know how Moses felt when he was in the wilderness!"

*\*From the August 2013 Vision article "Church History, Lesson 6"*

## Blood Drive July 10



DID YOU KNOW...

- ◆ Transfusions are needed in 1 in 83 infant deliveries.\*
- ◆ On average, 3% of the population donates blood every year.\*
- ◆ Nearly 42,000 blood components are used by patients every day.\*

Donate blood, save lives! VRUMC's next blood drive is Wednesday, July 10. To sign up, go to [www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive-advanced](http://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive-advanced).

\*Statistics from [americasblood.org](http://americasblood.org)



Barbara Tucker	June 01
Dorothy Francis	June 02
Andrew Walsh	June 02
Bill Irving	June 03
Tish Roberts	June 04
Lester Taylor	June 05
Lorrie Roberts	June 08
Paul Borneman	June 12
Marilyn Kunde	June 12
Helen Pierce	June 12
Glenda Veborg	June 13
Walt Gustin	June 17
Tangesi Maumatapule	June 21
Connie McDonough	June 21
Beverly Jackson	June 24
Duane Clark	June 29



Larry & Beverly Jackson	June 11
Boyd & Sheila Arnold	June 13
Bill & Barbara Irving	June 29

*in loving  
memory*

Kaye Temple 4/30/2024



# VELDA ROSE

*United Methodist Church*

5540 East Main Street  
Mesa, Arizona 85205-8720  
(480) 832-2111  
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

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

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### Staff Leadership

Rev. Carlo A. Rapanut, Bishop  
Rev. Melissa Rynders, East District Superintendent  
Rev. Ann Lyter, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Chan Kim, Associate Pastor  
Ministers, Every Member of the Congregation



## WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

**Wednesday Morning Devotions**  
10:00 AM  
Online at [facebook.com/veldaroseumc](https://facebook.com/veldaroseumc)

**Sunday Morning Services**  
9:30 AM  
Online at [facebook.com/veldaroseumc](https://facebook.com/veldaroseumc)  
& in-person in the Sanctuary

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S

## 4TH OF JULY WEENIE ROAST

**Thursday, July 4 at 5 PM**  
On the Sanctuary patio

Watch the Sunday bulletins for more details!