



## **The Chatter – 11.17.22**

### **Pastor's Pen:**

#### ***Sitting Beside the Woman at the Well***

***But he (Jesus) said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ---John 4:32 (NRSV)***

**I think that two traits of great leadership are accommodation and accountability. Great leaders look at the skill set of their followers/ disciples, and they attempt to work within the parameters of those God-given graces. I also think that great leaders look within themselves and their team at items which need to be strengthened and they seek out strategies to better themselves and their team. Accountability is the ownership of everything which goes well in an organization, and everything that does not.**

**This week in the course *Bad Girls of the Bible*, we will be focusing on Jesus and *The Woman at the Well (John 4:1-44)*. This is one of my favorite biblical texts. One of my first observations is that this woman is unnamed. This is significant to me, because she has no identity. Quite often, the throw away people of society, do not have a favorable reputation and they are voiceless. Even though we know very little about her character, we do know that she is unnamed,**

**she is a woman, and she is a Samaritan. In the Greco-Roman Empire, women were often received as the property of a man. Women had very few rights, and did not often have a voice in constructive matters. Not only is she a woman in a patriarchal society, she is a Samaritan. Samaritans and the Jewish community had different cultural expectations, different traditional understandings, and a completely different heritage. Both populations considered each other, *one of THOSE people*.**

**Through conversation with Jesus, we learn that she has been divorced on multiple occasions. So, she has another strike against her. In the purity laws, Levitical and Deuteronomic Laws, God tells the Jewish community to treat divorcees with respect and dignity; however, this rarely happened in the Greco-Roman Empire. Women were often despised and mistreated once they were divorced from their husbands.**

**There seems to be no quality of life for this woman. Was this why she came to the well at the hottest part of the day? Most community members came to Jacob's well in the morning when it was cooler; however, she chooses to come during the hottest part of the day. Was she looking to avoid strange stares? Was she attempting to avoid whispers and gossip as she walked by? Was she attempting to avoid glares from those who considered her to be a trashy woman? Most likely! However, Jesus has to come through Samaria, and he happens to stop at the well the same time that this unnamed Samaritan woman comes to the same location.**

**What does Jesus do with this woman? He sits beside her and talks to her. Quite often, the generalizations and stereotypes which we have for another community or**

**population are not true. We simply need to talk to others in order to see that we all bleed the same color, we all have feelings and emotions, and we (most likely) have more in common than we have differences. Jesus does not condemn this woman, he does not glare at her, and he does not attempt to sit far away from her. Jesus treats the Samaritan woman at the well as a human being, with respect and dignity.**

**When his disciples show up they are appalled at how Jesus accommodated another person who is *not like us!* Jesus also held himself and the Samaritan woman accountable for her past sins. However, he did not allow this woman's life and lifestyle overcome the fact that she is a sacred creation of God, worthy of respect, compassion, and love.**

**When in our lives have you and I responded like the disciples? That is, when have we been threatened by the differences of others? And, when have we offered a Christ-centered presence? That is, when have you and I looked upon the differences of others and still treated *those others* with dignity and respect? Quite often, I need to sit beside the Woman at the Well. And most likely, so do you. ---*David J. Harriss***

### **Announcements:**

**NO Church clean up on November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**NO Prickly Pairs on November 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Choir Members Wanted:**

**Praise the Lord! Anyone interested in joining the church choir is welcome. Our practices are on Thursdays at 1:30 in the sanctuary and Sunday before Church at 9:15 am. If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact Judy Zauner. Everyone is invited including the men.**

**Men's Prayer Group Breakfast:**

**Don't forget the Men's breakfast on November 19, 2022, from 8:30 to 10 am. Tickets are no longer available. The cost will be a freewill donation on the day of the event. The meal of French toast, Sausage, & fruit cocktail with all the fixings is delicious. How do I know that? The men did a trial run on Tuesday November 1<sup>st</sup> for the staff and UMF women. I didn't hear any complaints. They will have sugar free syrup too! Bring your spouse or a good friend.**

**Men's Prayer group:**

**Has moved to the church for the winter. They will still be meeting on Tuesday at 8 am. All men are welcome even if you do not belong to Gila Mountain UMC.**

**Angel Tree tags are on the tree in the narthex:**

**Angel tree tags are for children in foster care homes, which may not get a Christmas gift any other way. Please take a tag and fill the requests of a child under 12 years old. If you can't afford to buy everything for a child than share the cost with someone else or give money ear marked for Angel tree and our secret shoppers will do the shopping.**

### **Poinsettias for Christmas:**

**For worship services on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & the 25<sup>th</sup> we would like to line the chancel area with Poinsettias instead of dedicated flowers.**

**If you are interested in buying a poinsettia or several please let Marilyn the office know. The cost will be \$15.00 per plant which you can take home after worship on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Marilyn will need a rough estimate of how many to order as soon as possible. 928-342-0345**

### **Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoebox Ministry:**

**November is the time to PRAY! Boxes are going to Imagine Nations Church today, the designated collection site in Yuma.**

**As of last Sunday, we had 225 boxes filled. Totals of shipping and boxes delivered will be in next week's chatter. Thank-you everyone for your support of this children's outreach ministry. Questions? Please call or text Stephanie Kroll 541-409-6492.**

**Wrapped in Love: Is moving to the 2nd Saturday of the month. The next meeting will be: December 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10:00 am. Please come join a wonderful group. Everyone is welcome including men. If you don't know how to crochet, knit, or weave someone can teach you. All donations of yarn are welcomed.**

### **Tuesday Bible Study:**

**Is: *Bad Girls of the Bible* with Pastor David. The cost of the book will be \$15.00 (paperback). We have 2 books left.**

### **New Thursday Bible Study:**

**There are now plans to have a 3-session Advent Bible study. The dates will all be on Thursdays: 12/1; 12/8; and 12/15/22. The time to be announced soon. This study will be co-facilitated by Pastor David and Carolyn. We never really outgrow our “need” for Christmas. If 2022 has been a particularly tumultuous year for you, join us for what promises to be a warm hug and a cup of hot cocoa. (Carolyn has several “surprises” planned!!) Please contact the church office (928-342-0345,) or Carolyn at: 928-257-2064.**

**From the author’s description: “At the very first Christmas – the birth of Jesus – an angel announced three things. In those three statements of the angel, we find the three purposes of Christmas. The three sessions in *The Purpose of Christmas* look at each of those purposes: \* Christmas is a Time for Celebration \* Christmas is a Time for Salvation \* Christmas is a Time for Reconciliation.”**

### **GriefShare:**

**The 13-week program of GriefShare continues Thursdays at 2 pm. It's not too late to join because each individual session provides invaluable information.**

**The sessions include videos featuring pastors & grief counselors, followed by discussion. The one-time cost for this program is \$25 for a workbook. Visit the website at [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) where you can sign up for a year's**

worth of daily emails that can guide you in your grieving moments. If you would like additional information, please call Mary Klawuhn at 928-580-4448.

Next class starts on January 5, 2023.

### **UWF - United Women in Faith**

**Next meeting will be December 1, 2022, at 9:30 AM in Room 8.**

Please watch the Chatter for additional news about any e-board meetings.

They're on going projects are:

- 1. Jessie's Closet: Collecting children's socks, underwear, diapers size 3, 4 & 5, and any other items children need daily.**
- 2. Blessings Bags: These bags include water, snacks, wash cloths, soap, chap sticks, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb brush, disposable razors, and pop top food. Filled bags are sitting in the Narthex for you to distribute to someone in need.**

**You will find boxes for both of these ministries in the Narthex under the puzzle table.**

### **United Women in Faith Circles (UWF) Circles:**

**Rebecca Circle: Meets Mondays at 9 am. There are many happy needles and scissors in Room 8, I can assure. The group works on quilts that are donated to Crossroads Mission, Jessie's Closet, Amberly's Place, and other organizations.**

**Naomi Circle: Meets Tuesdays at 9 am. This is a crafting group. You can bring your own projects or you can also help with their annual luncheon by making decorations.**

**Abigail Circle: Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in Callaway Hall at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting will be December 20<sup>th</sup> and meets in Callaway Hall.**

**Help the Salvation Army:**

**Anyone interested in being a bell ringer or if you are interested in sorting, packing or shopping for the Angel tree event. Call their office at: 928-783-0181 or 928-783-0181.**

**AA & Al-anon:**

**Meets every Wednesday at 6 pm. If you have questions you can contact: Michael White at: 928-210-7260 for AA and Barbara Harman at: 724-321-0916 for Al-anon**

**12 Step Program (narcotics anonymous):**

**Is coming to Gila Mountain UMC. If you know someone dealing with drug addiction this is the group for them. They will meet Tuesday & Thursday nights at 6:30 pm starting November 29th.**

**Yuma Relay for Life Event:**

**Will be Saturday March 18, 2023. Mark your calendar. For more information, please contact Wendy Urquidez at 623-523-4583. GMUMC has had many participants from the church each year. With the coin jar in the sanctuary. We have collected close to \$1,000 each year. If you know any**

**Canadians tell them, you will take their pennies for the jar. I know most of Canadians toss them in the garbage. Every little bit helps someone with cancer and cancer research helps all of us.**

**Helping Hands Yard Sale:**

**Will be December 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup> and all are welcome to shop till you drop.**

**If you have time to volunteer, they will start setting up on November 21<sup>st</sup> and I'm sure they will take all the volunteers they can get. If you are interested call Helping Hands at 928-305-9974.**

**Final Harvest Concert:**

**Will be back in Yuma January 29<sup>th</sup> for a free will concert. Tell everyone you know that this is a wonderful concert to attend and tell everyone you know. The price of admission is a freewill offering. Spread the word and invite your friends.**

**Prickly Pairs:**

**We are a group of married and singles who gather once a week on Wednesday at various community restaurants. We share prayer, food, and fellowship. If you are interested in attending, call Carolyn Lodge at 928-257-2064 or Nick Giles at 509-590-7740 and we will welcome you with open arms!!!!  
Wednesdays at 4 pm.**

**PRICKLIE PAIRS VENUES THROUGH END OF 2022**

**BLACK BEAR DINER - NOVEMBER 23, 2022 – **Canceled****

**WHEEZIES – NOVEMBER 30, 2022**

**MI RANCHO – DECEMBER 7, 2022 - Meet in the church  
parking lot at  
3:15 PM to carpool to this downtown location**

**DAYBREAKERS - DECEMBER 14, 2022**

**WESTWINDS – DECEMBER 21, 2022**

**APPLEBEE’S – DECEMBER 28, 2022**

**Lay Servant Ministry:**

**Certified Lay Servants, Speakers, & Ministers who need a  
class every 2 years to remain certified or for those of you  
who want to take a class to see what it is about:**

**“Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry: Basic Course”**

**Santa Cruz Valley UMC, Sahuarita, AZ – December 3 &  
10**

**Church Mice:**

**These are the folks who come in during the week and do odd jobs for the staff and the Pastor. They also make sure that everything is ready for us to have a potluck every month and do all the setup, serving, and cleanup. They need more people to help cleanup if you are available. There are always a lot of little odd jobs that need to be done around the church. Talk to Toni Olsen for more information.**

**Gila Mountain UMC Tithes, Donations & Contributions for 2022:**

**October income is as follows:**

|                                 |                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>November 6<sup>th</sup></b>  | <b>\$ 7,298.00</b>    |
| <b>November 13<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>\$ 3,672.00</b>    |
| <b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>\$ 0.00</b>        |
| <b>November 27<sup>th</sup></b> | <b>\$ <u>0.00</u></b> |

**Total October Income: \$ 10,970.00**

**From January 1<sup>st</sup> thru October 31, 2022, our income was \$ 207,267.30 for 10 months. The Annual Budget for the church is \$250,000.00. To be this close to is such a blessing to the missions of the Lord and the church.**

**You are more than welcome to send a check to:**

**Gila Mountain UMC  
12716 N. Frontage Road  
Yuma, AZ 85367**

**The Lord puts us first, let's do our best to return His share back to Him.**

**Prayer Requests**

**You have asked that we keep the following brothers and sisters in loving thoughts and prayers: Polly Gailey; Sandy Kerr; John & Patsy Schwope; Michael & MaryElla Stoddard; Sue Bartlett; Felicity Kohls; Joe Creeg; Chris, Charlette, Trevor & Tianna Vullings; Bryan Hopson; Joe Hopson; Ned Bauer; Toni Olsen; Joanne Punda; Donna Barnhart; Bill Swanland; McCauley & Benson familys; Felicity Odom;**

**Traveling mercies for all who may be on the road.**

**The following members are in care facilities please keep them in your prayers.:**

**Ativo Senior Living: Elaine Gridley (room #220)**

**Ativo Senior Living: Fran Whiteman (room #119)**

**Ativo Senior Living: Richard (Dick) Ware (room #123)**

**Copper Hills: Diann Fullerton (room #137)**

**Copper Hills: Ilione Carlson (room #124)**

**Desert Rose: Bev Jepson (room #316)**

**Desert Rose: Barbara Walther (room #323)**

**Desert Rose: Anna Jane Crouse (room #220)**

**Emerald Springs: Gail Smit (room #127)**

**River Valley Estates: Cliff Updike (room #234B)**

**River Valley Estates: Andy Anderson (Memory Unit)**

### **Recurring Small Group Calendar**

***All are welcome to attend any of our groups even if you do not attend here.***

#### **MONDAY:**

**9:00 am - Rebecca's circle**

#### **TUESDAY:**

**8:00 am - Men's prayer group - Meets in room 8**

**9:00 am - Naomi Circle, crafters - Meets in room 8**

**Noon - Tuesday Bible Study - Meets in room 8**

**1:00 pm - Abigail Circle, library in Callaway Hall**

**6:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous 12 step program,**

#### **starts 11/29 WEDNESDAY:**

**4:00 pm - Prickly Pairs & Singles at various restaurants**

**6:00 pm - AA & AL-Anon meetings**

#### **THURSDAY:**

**TBA - Thursday Bible Study - starts Dec. 1st**

**9:30 am - United Women in Faith meeting - next meeting  
12/1**

**1:30 pm - Choir practice in the Sanctuary**

**2:00 pm - GriefShare – All are welcome**

**6:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous 12 step program  
starts 12/1**

**FRIDAY:**

**9:00 am - F.A.S.T. (Foothills Adult Social Time) - games &  
trains**

**Office Closed**

**SATURDAY:**

**8:30 am - Wrapped in Love - November 12, 2022.**

**8:30 to 10 am - Men's prayer Breakfast**

**SUNDAY:**

**9:15 am - Choir practice**

**9:30 am - Fellowship & Coffee**

**10:30 am - Youth Worship**

**10:30 am - Worship**

**11:45 am - Next Church Potluck lunch – December 4,  
2022**

**Bring your favorite dish. Y'all come for good  
eats!!**

**Want to watch the recorded worship service?**

**To watch, copy & paste this link:**

**<http://www.galacticchurch.org/GMUMC/video/Y2022/>**

**It will take you to the correct page & you will just have to  
pick the date you want to watch.**

**Liturgist & Prayers:**

**November 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Liturgists: MaryElla Stoddard**

**Prayers: Mike Stoddard**

**November 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Liturgists: Elaine Kirby**

**Prayers: Keith Bird**

**Usher and Greeters Schedule September 2022**

**Sunday, November 20, 2022**

**Front Door greeters: Nike Giles & Bob Seikel**

**Front Door Sign in table: Fran Whiteman**

**Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Allan & Barbara Mercer**

**Door 2 ( Middle Sanctuary): Ken Morten - offering row 5**

**Bonnie Burrer - offering row 4**

**Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Mike Stoddard - offering row 3**

**MaryElla Stoddard - offering row 2**

**East Entry Door: JoE Summers - offering row 1**

**& Joyce Kiser**

**Blessing of offering basket: Mike Stoddard**

**Sunday, November 27, 2022**

**Front Door greeters: Nike Giles & Bob Seikel**

**Front Door Sign in table: Wilma Greene**

**Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Allan & Barbara Mercer**

**Door 2 ( Middle Sanctuary): Ken Morten - offering row 5**

**Bonnie Burrer - offering row 4**

**Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Mike Stoddard - offering row 3**

**MaryElla Stoddard - offering row 2**

**East Entry Door: JoE Summers - offering row 1**

**& Joyce Kiser**

**Blessing of offering basket: MaryElla Stoddard**

**Back Ups: Linda & Del Gower; Rose Moodie;**

**Toni Olsen; Elaine Kirby; Lois Young & Mary Klawuhn**

***Yours in Grace & Peace,***

***Pastor David, Marilyn, and Lorna***

***Gila Mountain United Methodist Church***

***12716 N. Frontage Road***

***Yuma, AZ 85367***

***Office number (928) 342-0345***

***Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 3 pm***