

The Chatter – 12.01.22

Pastor's Pen:

Blue Christmas

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed- and a sword will pierce your own soul too." Luke 2:34-35, NRSV

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy and laughter, spending time with loved ones, generous giving, and exuberant folly. For some, Christmas is not a joyous occasion! For people that have experienced loss or grief in their lives, Christmas can be a very difficult season. Add to this dynamic, the social pressure to be happy and joyful, and Christmas becomes challenging for those who are sad.

During the Christmas season, the Revised Common Lectionary offers us the story of Jesus Christ being dedicated in the Temple by Simeon (Luke 2:22-40, Year A, 2nd Sunday of Christmas). This was a time of great joy for the family and any sponsors that may be a part of the celebration. Simeon gives us words of great joy when he describes the future life and ministry of Jesus Christ. However, he also gives Mary words of concern when he tells her, *a sword will pierce your own soul too*. The fact that he uses the word *too* allows Mary to know that Jesus will be the victim of future violence. What difficult words to hear regarding the life and well-being of your own child.

In the same way, Christmas can be a blue time for those who are experiencing grief and loss. There is a range of emotions which come with the season. In my own personal experience, this will be the first Christmas in which I have no parents. As you know, my mother died March 1st, 2022, and she was only surviving, biological parent. This has already been a difficult season for me. I have less energy and

more fatigue, and I find myself crying silent tears when no one else is around. Last week, I turned on the radio and heard the song *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, sung by *Andy Williams*. I was immediately juxtaposed to my childhood. My mother was a big Andy Williams fan, and we would often hear this very song during the Christmas season on vinyl. Just hearing this Christmas song, tugged at my heart. This Christmas season is already showing me how difficult and challenging the days ahead may be.

If you have a difficult time during the season of Christmas, please feel free to come to our annual *Blue Christmas* worship service on Sunday, December 4th, at 4 p.m. It may not be the loss of a family member or friend that makes you sad during this season. There is financial pressure to purchase gifts, there is loneliness and isolation when we are away from family members, there is the rush of the season in a community where many elderly members are losing their independence. Once again, the Blue Christmas Worship Service will be on Sunday, December 4th, at 4 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. This is a great time to be with others that feel your pain and your loss. It is also a good time to meet others that may be commiserating with you during this difficult and challenging season.

My continued prayer for all that may be struggling in December, is that you and I continue to look to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, for guidance and help. May God continue bless all during this season, those who are struggling, and those who are not.

---David J. Harriss

Announcements:

LAST Sunday to get Angel Tree tags - 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.

All filled tags much be back in the church no later than Wednesday, December 7th.

Sunday December 4th 11:45 am Potluck & Support the Food Pantry with dry and canned goods.

Blue Christmas Worship Service:

Sunday, December 4th, 2022, at 4 pm. At Gila Mountain UMC.

If you have experienced loss in your life or if you have a sense of anger or grief at Christmas time, please come to this service of hope and healing.

Support the Yuma Food Pantry:

With all dry box items, rice, beans, pasta; canned fruit; vegies; tuna; chicken and tomatoes products.

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.

Poinsettias for Christmas:

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

The cost will be \$15.00 per plant, which you can take home after worship on December 25th Christmas Day.

The sale of Poinsettias has gone so well all orders need to be placed with Marilyn no later than Monday December 12, 2022. I have ordered 50 plants and 46 have already been spoken for. There are 4 available for sale. Check with Marilyn to see if there are still some available.

If you are interested in buying a poinsettia or several please let Marilyn in the office know at 928-342-0345 or cell # 928-210-6344 ASAP.

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Shoebox Ministry:

November is the time to PRAY! GMUMC, TLP & GMCA filled 238 boxes this year with all shipping paid. Thank-you everyone for your support & PRAYERS for this children's outreach ministry. Tracking numbers can be checked now through February, some boxes are already set for their destinations, but processing takes time too. Do YOU want to be part of planning OCC 2023? Please call or text Stephanie Kroll 541-409-6492.

Wrapped in Love: Will be December 10th 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.

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.

Tuesday Bible Study:

Is: *Bad Girls of the Bible* with Pastor David. The cost of the book will be \$15.00 (paperback). We have 1 book left.

New Thursday Bible Study:

The dates will all be on this Thursday 12/1 at 11:30 and on Thursday 12/8; and 12/15/22. Times will be determined during the first

class on December 1st. 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 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.

The next class starts on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at 2 pm.

UWF - United Women in Faith

Next meeting will be December 1, 2022, at 10:00 AM in the narthex with a potluck lunch and secret sister reveal.

UWF’s 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.**

Blessings Bags: These bags include water, snacks, wash cloths, soap, chap sticks, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb brush,

disposable razors, and pop top food. 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 you. 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 and will be taking a break for the month of December. This is a crafting group. You can bring your own projects or you can also help with their annual luncheon by making decorations. Is canceled until January 10th.

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

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 & Contributions for 2022:

October income is as follows:

November 6th	\$ 7,298.00
November 13th	\$ 3,672.00
November 20th	\$ 3,180.00
November 27th	<u>\$ 2,283.00</u>

Total October Income: \$ 16,433.00

From January 1st thru November 30th, 2022, our income was \$ 223,700.30 for 11 months. The Annual Budget for the church is \$250,000.00.

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; Bryan Hopson; Joe Hopson; Ned Bauer; Toni Olsen; Joanne Punda; Donna Barnhart; Bill Swanland; McCauley & Benson family's; Felicity Kohls Odom; Dan Olberg; Regena Huffman; Judie Underwood; Sue Blad.

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)

16th Annual Journey to Bethlehem:

December 2nd 10 am to 5 pm

December 3rd 9am to 3 pm

43rd Annual Christmas Handbell Concert

December 17th & 18th at 4 pm at

Trinity United Methodist Church

3030 8th Ave. Yuma (Right behind Burlington Coat Factory)

928-344-3013

AA:

Meets daily Monday thru Friday at 3 pm, all are welcome. For more information, please call Lacy at 916-233-8926

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 NA Program (narcotics anonymous):

They will meet Tuesday & Thursday nights at 6:30 pm.

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 & 3rd and all are welcome to shop till you drop. The church will be closed Friday & Saturday December 2nd & 3rd.

Final Harvest Concert:

Will be back in Yuma January 29th 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 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

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

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

3:00 pm - AA room 9

TUESDAY:

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

9:00 am - Naomi Circle, crafters – (Cancelled until 1/10)

Noon - Tuesday Bible Study - Meets in room 8

1:00 pm - Abigail Circle, library in Callaway Hall 12/20

3:00 pm - AA room 9

6:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous 12 step program

WEDNESDAY:

3:00 pm - AA room 9

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

6:00 pm - AA & Al-anon

THURSDAY:

11:30 am - Thursday Bible Study

**9:30 am - United Women in Faith meeting –
next meeting 1-5-23**

1:30 pm - Choir practice in the Sanctuary

2:00 pm - GriefShare – All are welcome

3:00 pm - AA room 9

6:30 pm - Narcotics Anonymous 12 step program

FRIDAY:

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

3:00 pm - AA room 9

Office Closed

SATURDAY:

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

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

& Canned goods for Crossroads Mission.

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:

December 4th:

Liturgists: Evelyn Mitchell

Prayers: David Pierce

December 11th:

Liturgists: Julia Santos

Prayers: Carolyn Lodge

December 18th:

Liturgists: Judy Schultz

Prayers: Sandy Kerr

December 25th:

Liturgists: Elaine Kirby

Prayers: Mike Stoddard

**DRCEMBER 2022
USHER AND GREETERS SCHEDULE**

Sunday, December 4, 2022, Arrive 9:30 A.M.

Front Door Greeter: JoE Summers & Del Gower

Front Door Sign in Table: Fran Whiteman

Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Mike & Mary Ella Stoddard

Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary): Ken Morten-offering Row 5
Bonnie Burrer-offering Row 4
Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Joyce Kiser-offering Row 3
Rose Moodie-offering Row 2
East Entry Door Judy Schultz-offering Row 1
Blessing of offering: Judy Schultz

Sunday, December 4, 2022

BLUE CHRISTMAS 4 P.M. Arrive 3:15 P.M.

Front Door Greeter: Del Gower
Front Door Sign in Table: Marilyn Hohnstein
Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary): Linda Gower
Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Joyce Kiser
East Sanctuary Door & Entrance: Lisa Makela

Sunday, December 11, 2022, Arrive 9:30 A.M.

Front Door Greeter: JoE Summers & Del Gower
Front Door Sign in Table: Fran Whiteman
Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Mike & Mary Ella Stoddard
Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary): Ken Morten-offering Row 5
Bonnie Burrer-offering Row 4
Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Joyce Kiser-offering Row 3
Rose Moodie-offering Row 2
East Entry Door: Judy Schultz-offering Row 1
Blessing of offering basket: Rose Moodie

Sunday, December 18, 2022, Arrive 9:30 A.M.

Front Door Greeter: JoE Summers & Del Gower
Front Door Sign in Table: Fran Whiteman
Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Mike Stoddard Mary Ella Stoddard **Door 2**
(Middle Sanctuary): Ken Morten-offering Row 5
Bonnie Burrer-offering Row 4
Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Joyce Kiser-offering Row 3
Rose Moodie-offering Row 2
East Entry Door: Judy Schultz-offering Row 1

Blessing of offering basket: Joyce Kiser

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve 4 P.M. Arrive 3:15 P.M.

Front Door Greeter: Nick Giles-offering Row 1

Front Door Sign in Table: Fran Whiteman

Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Wendy Urquidez

Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary): Ken Morten-offering Row 4

Bonnie Burrer-offering Row 5

Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Linda Gower-offering Row 3

East Entry Door: Del Gower-offering Row 2

Blessing of offering basket: Linda Gower

Saturday, December 24, 2022

Christmas Eve 6 P.M. Arrive 5:15 P.M.

Front Door Greeter: Wendy Urquidez

Front Door Sign in Table: Lisa Makela

Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Barbara & Allan Mercer

Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary): Linda Gower-offering Row 4

Del Gower-offering Row 5

Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Ken Morten-offering 3

Bonnie Burrer-offering 2

East Entry Door: Rose Moodie & Nick Giles-offering Row 1

Blessing of offering basket: Del Gower

Sunday, December 25, 2022

Christmas Day Arrive 9:30 A.M.

Front Door Greeter: JoE Summers & Del Gower

Front Door Sign in Table: Mary Klawuhn

Door 1 (West Sanctuary): Mike & Mary Ella Stoddard

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

Bonnie Burrer-offering Row 4

Door 3 (East Sanctuary): Joyce Kiser-offering Row 3

Rose Moodie-offering Row 2

East Entry Door: Judy Schultz-offering Row 1

Blessing of offering basket: Bonnie Burrer

**Back Ups: Linda Gower; Toni Olsen; Judy Zauner;
& Robert Seikel**

Yours in Grace & Peace,

Pastor David, Marilyn, Lorna, Debbie & Carolyn

Gila Mountain United Methodist Church

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Yuma, AZ 85367

Office number (928) 342-0345

Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 am to 3 pm