

# The Chatter 12-30-20

## Pastor's Pen

### *Saying Goodbye to 2020*

As we approach December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020, we look back on a year that was difficult, exasperating, and challenging. The COVID pandemic threw us into unknown and uncharted territory. The United States *shut down* for an extended period and this made many US Citizens agitated and uneasy. Coupled with this uneasiness, were US Citizens that were less uptight and understanding with these COVID reverberations. At Gila Mountain United Methodist Church, we shut down several ministries, revised office hours, offered only virtual worship, and all face-to-face contact was virtually, virtual.

Merriam Webster defines the word *legacy* as *something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor*. That is, a legacy is something *inherited* or *handed down to the next generation*. What will the legacy of 2020 be? Quite often, we want a legacy to be something positive, fulfilling, or beneficial for the next generation. However, the predominant memory of 2020, will be the daunting memories of the COVID 19 pandemic and the resultant fallout from this virus.

For anyone who lost a loved one or family member to this terrible virus (including our own family), 2020 will be remembered quite unfavorably. For anyone who was unable to be with their loved ones in their last minutes of life due to community health concerns, 2020 will be remembered very unfavorably. The chances are good that we will remember the negative political environment of 2020. The chances are good that we will remember the anxiety and the frustration of having to change our lifestyles in 2020. So, when we say *goodbye to 2020*, I am convinced that many will also say *good riddance* to this same year.

But I would like to offer a few positive words for 2020. We learned to be adaptable for the benefit and well-being of others. We spent more time with our families in 2020. I learned what it was like to take Sunday off, every week. Since we would often record the worship service on Friday and virtual worship was the only option for participation, I was off on Sundays. We learned that not all hope was lost. Sure, we had to change our lifestyles, but it was not the end of the world! And, we learned what it was like to live within the boundaries. We had new restrictions surrounding our lives and our lifestyles, but we learned how to live more simplistically.

As we look back at the passing year, I am hopeful that you and I will contemplate this question: *What will be our legacy as Christians in this world?* Will

we be remembered as a people that gave of themselves for God's Kingdom? Did we fruitfully offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness to the Lord on an on-going basis? Will we be remembered as a community of faith that gave generously and extravagantly? Was our charitable giving demonstrated and exposed to the greater Yuma community? How do you and I want to be remembered in God's Kingdom? Another year will soon be behind us and I look forward to being in ministry with you again in 2021.

Happy New Year!!! ---*Pastor David J. Harriss*

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**Announcements**

**Happy New Year**

**Indoor Worship**

**YES, we are open for worship at 9 am Sunday mornings.**

***Bring your coffee in a travel cup and join us for Sunday worship.***

**We will still follow the same safety protocols:** Your temperature will be taken as you drive into the parking lot. Just open your window & stick your wrist out the window to have you temp taken. All with a Temperature of 100 degrees or more will be asked to return home. If you have cold or flu symptoms you also need to stay home & not expose all in attendance. Masks will be worn, people will always stay 6 feet apart, no hugging, Passing of the Peace, etcetera. Everyone will need to sign a liability waiver and the weekly sign-in sheet to be a part of the worshipping community.

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**The Men's Group:** Meets Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am in room 8. Guys if you want coffee & something to eat; each of you may bring sealed containers for yourselves only. You are not allowed to share during the COVID-19. Masks, hand sanitizer, signing a waiver & signing the sign in sheet will still be in effect. Pastor David & Michael are really looking forward to seeing you there.

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**A/V persons wanted & needed:**

Marisol is still looking for help setting up the worship for Sundays & running the equipment. If you are interested in learning how to run the A/V equipment please give Marisol a call. It is easy to do and there will be written instructions for you to use as well. The more people that learn to operate the system the better we will be, so no one person has to do it all the time. If you have any questions you may call Marisol Harriss at: 520-465-5466

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The Church office will close on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and will reopen January 4, 2021 with regular office hours of 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. If you need Pastoral care or any help, please call Sandy Kerr at 928-580-2073 or Marilyn Hohnstein at 928-210-6344.

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**Gila Mountain UMC Tithes, donations & contributions:** I'm including the contributions we have received for the last 8 months:

Total contributions to the general budget for April:	\$ 13,491.58
Total contributions to the general budget for May:	\$ 16,931.89
Total contributions to the general budget for June:	\$ 8,199.30
Total contributions to the general budget for July:	\$ 24,265.00
Total contributions to the general budget for Aug.:	\$ 11,831.43
Total contributions to the general budget for Sept.:	\$ 12,445.30
Total contributions to the general budget for Oct.:	\$ 15,109.00
Total contributions to the general budget for Nov.:	\$ 21,805.47
December 6, 2020	\$ 4,371.00
December 13, 2020	\$ 4,357.00
December 20, 2020	\$ 2,232.66
December 20, 2020	\$ <u>2,600.50</u>
Total for December:	\$ 13,561.16

***This is the last week to get your donations in before the end of the year.***

With a monthly budget of \$25,000.00 per month we are running short every month. I know it is easier to give when you are in church & the plate is passed to you, but we still need your help please. If you are not coming to church you can drop it by the office, deduct 55 cents from your tithes to cover the cost of the stamp & mail

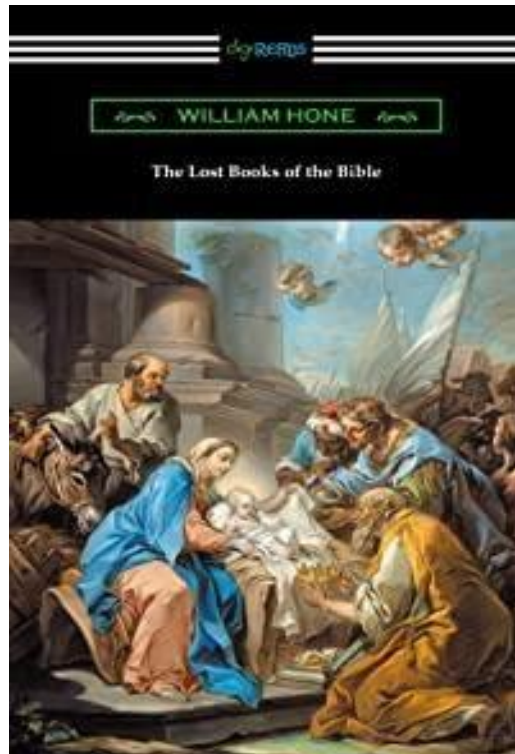
your check in or if you pay your bills online you can send us a check that way. The address is: GMUMC 12716 N. Frontage Road, Yuma, AZ 85367. The church needs your support, gifts & graces as you agreed to do when you joined the church.

Thank you

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**New Bibles studies:**

**Tuesdays starting January 12, 2021**



## ***Lost Books of the Bible***

**The New Study begins on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**When:** Every Tuesday at 12 p.m. (12 weeks) via Zoom  
Zoom link found below

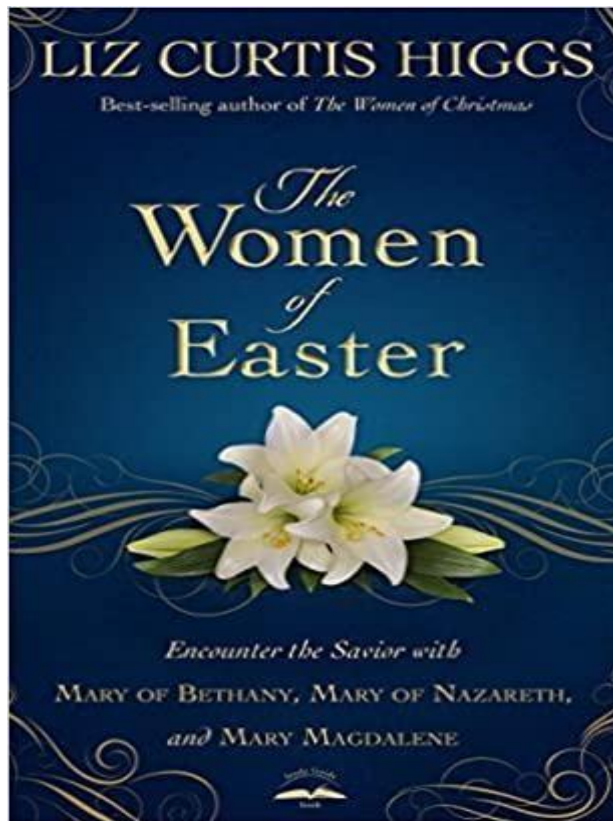
**Book Cost:** \$16.00/ Books are available at the Church  
Office.

Come and explore the books which were not canonized (placed in the Bible) by the earliest spiritual leaders.

**Instructor:** David Harriss

A syllabus will be sent out at before the first class.

**Thursdays starting January 14, 2021**



***New Study: The Women of Easter (8 weeks)***

**When:** Begins Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. This will be a hybrid in-person and/or a Zoom session. You will find the Zoom link below.

**NOTE:** There will be no class on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, March 4<sup>th</sup> or April 1<sup>st</sup> to allow for UMW participation.

**Book Cost:** \$15.00/ The books are currently available in the office. The Church Office will be closed until January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

**Instructor:** Dalene Kelly

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### Ushers & Greeters

#### January Schedule for Usher and Greeters

##### **Sunday, January 3, 2021**

Temperatures Bob Woodling & Jane Woodling  
Front Door Greeter Del Gower  
Front Door Sign in Table Judy Lindeman & Roxie Kline  
Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary) Judy Zauner & Jeri Cooper  
Door 3 (East Sanctuary) Bob Seikel & Linda Gower  
East Entry Door Betty Little & Rose Moodie  
Bathroom Fran Whiteman

##### **Sunday, January 10, 2021**

Temperatures Bob Woodling & Jane Woodling  
Front Door Greeter Bob Seikel  
Front Door Sign in Table Judy Lindeman & Dalene Kelly  
Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary) Del Gower & Linda Gower  
Door 3 (East Sanctuary) Michael Stoddard & MaryElla Stoddard  
East Entry Door Betty Little & Toni Olsen  
Bathroom Fran Whiteman

##### **Sunday, January 17, 2021**

Temperatures Bob Woodling & Jane Woodling  
Door Greeter Bob Seikel  
Front Door Sign in Judy Lindeman & Dalene Kelly  
Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary) Del Gower & Linda Gower  
Door 3 (East Sanctuary) Michael Stoddard & MaryElla Stoddard  
East Entry Door Betty Little & Toni Olsen  
Bathroom Fran Whiteman

### **Sunday, January 24, 2021**

Temperatures Bob Woodling & Jane Woodling  
Front Door Greeter Del Gower  
Front Door Sign in Table Judy Zauner & Dalene Kelly  
Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary) Bob Seikel & Jeri Cooper  
Door 3 (East Sanctuary) Michael Stoddard & MaryElla Stoddard  
East Entry Door Betty Little & Judy Schultz  
Bathroom Rose Moodie

### **Sunday, January 31, 2021**

Temperatures Bob Woodling & Jane Woodling  
Front Door Greeter Del Gower  
Front Door Sign in Table Judy Zauner & Dalene Kelly  
Door 2 (Middle Sanctuary) Bob Seikel & Jeri Cooper  
Door 3 (East Sanctuary Door) Linda Gower & Toni Olsen  
East Entry Door Betty Little & Judy Schultz  
Bathroom Rose Moodie

Please make sure all greeters and ushers are wearing gloves, masks, and shields at all times especially when seated and sitting/standing at your station unless you have a Dr's written exception, and it is turned into the office. The only other exception is when speaking at the pulpit. This is part of the protocol for being able to have indoor services. We do not want to be shut down and we need to be an example to parishioners. Thank you for all you do!! This could not be done without all of you. Any questions or concerns please text, email or call us. Thanks to all of you again for your help and patience in making this a smooth start up! If you know of anyone wanting to volunteer, please get ahold of us. If we get more volunteers, we can switch and not have the same every week. Do not forget to dress warm as it is still going to be cool in the sanctuary as we have to keep some doors open for air circulation. **Do not forget if you have any symptoms whatsoever or do not feel-good call me and do not come!** We need to be safe. I am trying to keep myself and Del as a backup so if someone gets sick.

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**Want to talk & visit with other parishioners' of the church:** Then go to your computer at 2:00 pm on Wednesdays and click on this blue link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81105690774>

and join other parishioners of the church in a 1-hour social visit. I know it is not as good as seeing people in person, but for now it is the next best thing we have. Our average attendance is between 4 to 12 people. Lets see if we can get 25 people.

**David & Marilyn & Debbie would love to see you there each week. Will Resume January 6<sup>th</sup>.**

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**New Gila Mountain Facebook page:**

To get to the new Facebook page you will need to go to the church website at: [www.gilamountain.org](http://www.gilamountain.org). In the top righthand corner you will see the Facebook Logo. Click on it and it will take you to the new page. Check it out & like us the next time you are going to be on Facebook.

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**Recurring SMALL Group Calendar.**

Each person will be required to wear a mask, sign a waiver (if they have not already done so) & sign the daily/weekly sign in sheet. You are more than welcome to bring something to drink or food for yourself, but not to share.

**Caregiver Support group:** Meets every Wednesday at 10 am in room 9. If you are a caregiver & want a place to vent or find available resources, please come join the group every Wednesday.

**Grief Support group:** Meets every Thursday at 1:00 pm. If you have lost a loved one or know someone who has this is the group. You will not only be given help to get everything settled, and we have books & pamphlets to help you understand the emotional roller coaster you are on. Plus, you will have a place where you can learn from other attendees experiences. Will not meet December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Rebecca Circle Quilters:**

Meets every Monday at 9:00 am. If you are a quilter this is your group. If you aren't a quilter but want to learn these ladies would love to teach you.

**Naomi Circle:**

Will meet every Tuesday at 9:00 am in room 8..

**Wrapped In Love:** Will Meet the first Saturday of the month. January 2nd at 10:00am.

**Men's Prayer Group:**

Meet every Wednesday, at 8:00 a.m. in room 8, the men will reconvene at Gila Mountain United Methodist Church. We will meet weekly at 8:00 a.m., every Wednesday. If you would like more information about this ministry, please see Michael Stoddard on Sunday mornings.



**Tuesday's Bible Study:**

Normally meets at noon on Tuesday. They will not meet again until January 12, 2021. They will be reading a book written by William Hone called: The Lost Books of the Bible. You can pick up a copy in the Office for \$16.00

**Women's Bible Study is moving to Thursdays:**

Women's Study to begin again on **Thursday** January 14th at 9:00 am. This will be a hybrid class with "in person at the church" and a zoom link for those who would rather study from home. You can pick up a copy in the Office for \$15.00.

**Meetings for the next week: January 4 to 10, 2021**

- Mon.: \* Rebecca Circle Quilters - 9 am
- Tue.: \* Naomi Circle crafters - 9 am
  - Bible Study w/David – canceled till 1-12-21
- Wed.: \* Men's Prayer Group - 8 am
  - Caregivers support - 10am- room 9
  - Church get together - 2 pm - via zoom
  - AA & Al-anon 6:00 pm - rooms 8 & 9
- Thur.: \* UMW meeting - secret sister draw – 9 am
  - Grief Support -1 pm - room 9
  - Women's bible study – canceled till 1-14-21
- Fri.: \* Church office closed
- Sat.: \* Church closed
  - Wrapped in Love - 10 am
- Sun: \* Worship 9:00 am - Sanctuary

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*For a copy of our approved re-opening indoor you may come to the office or request it by email at: [office@gilamountain.org](mailto:office@gilamountain.org).*

*When you come to indoor group meetings or worship you will be required to sign the Church Covenant & COVID-19 Waiver forms; wear a mask;*

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**Sunday Worship:**

Are you having trouble getting the recorded YouTube worship service? You can get it by clicking on this blue link:

<http://www.galacticchurch.org/GMUMC/video/Y2020/>

& picking the Sunday, you want to watch. We look forward to seeing you there.

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**Prayer Requests:** Do you have prayer requests? If so call, email the office with your prayer requests.

You have asked that we please keep the following people wrapped in your love & Prayers: All Caregivers; All grieving; Diann Fullerton; Wendy Urquidez; Ebe & Ned; Jerry Duve; Linda Brockman; Kim Blasia; Chris Odom; Robert Smetts; Colton Kenning; Kathleen Wyre; Ethel Ergange; Marlin Cooper; Kate Campa; Jim, Gayle & Jazmyn White; Marisol's Mom; Cecilia Lopez Elias; Andrew & Victoria Hafliger; Lorraine Miller and Family; Regena Huffman; Candy & Cody Abbott; Kim Brewster & Family; Kim Potasky; Beverly Bell; Lowel & Elanor Bubbles, Cory Miller & family; Family of Jan Parr; Sue Steinbouch; Cindy Davis; Mike Perry; Chuck Klawuhn; Sheila Greenwalt; Tim Vinon; Polly & Ron Gailey; Brenda Martin; Jack & Anna Archer; Ed Shipman; Perrienne Stockard; Family of Marie Nettles; Aaron Tyler; Diana Sranek; Jan Huntley; Anna Marie Sollars; Mary Barefoot; Debbie Williams; Toni Olsen; Evelyn Mitchel; Joe Bias; Bruce & Arlene McGuire; Sandy Kerr on the loss of her brother; Sharon Roudebush; Mary Barefoot; Ted Vadman; Beverly & Wayne Parker; Harriss family safe travels.

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**Per Yuma County Health Department COVID-19 Stats.**

As you know COVID-19 is on the rise

Thank you for keeping us all safe & wearing your mask.

Please, please, please if you have any of the following symptoms of the flu do not assume it is the flu. Get tested immediately for your sake & the health of all others. Stay home for 14 days after exposure to protect yourself & everyone in the church.

If you go out of the state or into a large size city, please quarantine for 7 to 10 days & get tested as you may be a carrier with no symptoms.

COVID-19 systems are:

Fever or chills

Cough

Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Fatigue

Muscle or body aches  
Headache  
New loss of taste or smell  
Sore throat  
Congestion or runny nose  
Nausea or vomiting  
Diarrhea

**If you think you might have COVID you can go to Sunset Health  
North Yuma – 675 S. Avenue B – Drive Thru Testing  
Monday-Friday, 7am-9am - No appointment required.  
928-539-31401**

The COVID-19 stats for Yuma are:  
27,065 positive cases up 1,758 in the last 7 days  
up 12% over last week.  
504 deaths up 38 in the last 7 days  
up 8% over the last week.

Please keep the Victims of COVID-19 in your prayers.  
Know you are all wrapped in God's love today and every day.

Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC)

**Everyone Should**

**Wash your hands often**

- [Wash your hands](#) often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- It's especially important to wash:
  - Before eating or preparing food
  - Before touching your face
  - After using the restroom
  - After leaving a public place
  - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
  - After handling your mask
  - After changing a diaper
  - After caring for someone sick
  - After touching animals or pets

- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

### **Avoid close contact**

- **Inside your home:** Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- **Outside your home:** Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
  - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
  - [Stay at least 6 feet \(about 2 arms' length\) from other people.](#)
  - Keeping distance from others is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.](#)

### **Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others**

- Masks help prevent you from getting or spreading the virus.
- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- Everyone should wear a [mask](#) in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when other [social distancing](#) measures are difficult to maintain.
  - Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- Do NOT use a mask meant for a healthcare worker. Currently, surgical masks and N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

## **Reinfection with COVID-19**

Cases of reinfection with COVID-19 have been reported, but remain rare.

In general, reinfection means a person was infected (got sick) once, recovered, and then later became infected again. Based on what we know from similar viruses, some reinfections are expected. We are still learning more about COVID-19. Ongoing COVID-19 studies will help us understand:

- How likely is reinfection
- How often reinfection occurs
- How soon after the first infection can reinfection take place
- How severe are cases of reinfection?
- Who might be at higher risk for reinfection?

#### What CDC is doing

CDC is actively working to learn more about reinfection to inform public health action. CDC developed recommendations for public health professionals to help decide when and how to test someone for suspected reinfection. CDC has also provided information for state and local health departments to help investigate suspected cases of reinfection. We will update this guidance as we learn more about reinfection.

#### Prevention

At this time, whether you have had COVID-19 or not, the best way to prevent infection is to take steps to [protect yourself](#):

- Wear a mask in public places
- Stay at least 6 feet away from other people
- Wash your hands
- Avoid crowds and confined spaces

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#### **Please Be Aware Do not Get Scammed**

Just a friendly reminder that people are being scammed over the phone. Scammers are calling saying you have a family member in trouble & you need to send money now. Or they are also calling about your Social Security or IRS that is also a scam! Please do not send any money, buy gifts cards or give out your credit card number or bank account numbers to anyone.

Yours in Grace & Peace,  
Pastor David, Marilyn, Lorna & Debbie  
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