

Forgiveness

When you are unwilling to forgive,
you limit your growth.

Forgiveness allows you to
right a wrong in your spiritual self,
to have understanding instead of resentment,
to have compassion instead of hatred.

Louise Hay

Pastor's Pen:

Matthew 11:28 *Come to me, all you who are weary and carrying burdens and I will give you rest.*

Re-Charging the Battery

I am writing a *Chatter* article from my kitchen table on Wednesday afternoon, September 9th. I woke up this morning realizing that I would be back in the Church Office on Thursday, September 10th, and thought, *I have to have a Chatter article ready and write a sermon before Friday morning.* This happens a lot when I am on vacation. That is, I begin to think about my upcoming schedule with only 1 or 2 days left.

I have really enjoyed my time away from the Church Office this past week (I hope that my church staff are not offended with that statement). Currently, Marisol is playing the role of teacher and stay at home mom, every day, as our children are in a virtual classroom setting. This means that she currently has 3 jobs: As mom, as a teacher for Francisco, and as a teacher for Maya. I was glad to be part of this mentoring partnership project with my wife, this past week. I also felt a sense of calmness knowing that there were no deadlines, no articles, and no classes to prepare for from September 3rd through September 9th.

Jesus knew the importance of having leisure time, re-charging our batteries, rest and relaxation. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is constantly pursuing down time, yet people keep confronting him with various issues. This does not stop his noble attempts of having *down time* for himself. When he had finished feeding the 5,000, he went *off to a quiet place by himself.* He needed sufficient rest and relaxation so that he could *walk on water* the following morning.

I would encourage all of the church staff to take some time off, when you are able to do so. Even if that time off means going on *stay-cation* and simply staying home during this pandemic. As move closer to Christmas, it becomes more difficult to take time off due to the busyness of the season. Therefore, take some time off in the fall, re-charge, take a deep breath, and come back.

I was impressed with Bishop Bob's first gathering with the Order of Elders in Marana, Arizona in 2012. Bishop Bob insisted that clergy take two days off out of the week. His statement to the Order of Elders went something like this (paraphrased), *When clergy devote all of their time toward work without sufficient rest, they are more likely to get into trouble from irresponsible acts. You all need time to be with your families. I want every clergy member gathered here to take off two days, each week.* For clergy the standard has often been one Sabbath day for rest and relaxation. In fact, I have had Bishops and Episcopal leaders that would schedule district and conference meetings on Monday, simply because this was the designated day off for most clergy.

We can get tired of housework. We can get tired of our employment space. And yes, we can even get tired of church work. All of us need time to recharge our batteries so that we can be better people, better spouses, better moms and dads, better husbands and wives, and better grandparents. I was grateful to be able to get my battery re-charged this past week. I look forward to seeing you all and being in ministry with you all, very soon. --

-David J. Harriss

* * * * *

Announcements:

Thank you:

It is with a very grateful heart that The Learning Pad staff would like to thank everyone for all the school supplies and donations given to our school. Your generosity will be put to good use and bring lots of smiles to our students. May the blessings you have given us be multiplied in your lives. We are truly so very blessed to be a part of GMUMC. Mrs. Cordova, Mrs. Garcia, Mrs. House, Mrs. Kroll, Mrs. Lerma.

* * * * *

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 them in person, but for now it is the next best thing we have. Our average attendance is between 4 to 12 people. **David & Marilyn would love to see you there next week Sept. 15th.**

* * * * *

Drive By Visitation

On Wednesdays, I will begin a *drive by visitation* every Wednesday evening. Here is how this will work: I will contact parishioners earlier in the day or week, to let them know that I plan to drive by their residence (between 6-7 p.m.). When I get to a parishioner's residence, and visit him/her from a distance. I hope to come by as many church member's homes as possible in one evening. I hope to give you a call very soon and I look forward to seeing each of you as soon as possible.

---Pastor David

* * * * *

As of today September 8, 2020 we have received permission to have SMALL groups. Small groups are 10 people or less. If the group goes over 10 the group will be moved to the sanctuary.

* * * * *

This week we will start with the Caregiver's & Grief Support group. UMW has been postponed to October 1, 2020.

Caregiver Support & Grief Support groups:

Church membership is not a requirement for joining one of these groups. If you know someone who is a caregiver or grieving have them come talk to Debbie or Marilyn

Caregiver Support group: Started on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 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: Will start September 10, 2020 at 1:00 pm in room 9. If you have lost a loved one this group is for you. 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 members of the group's experiences.

Rebecca Circle Quilters:

Will start Monday September 21st at 9am. If you are a quilter this is your group. If you are not a quilter & want to learn.

Wrapped in Love:

Will meet Saturday October 3rd from 10 am to noon. Come for the fellowship, patterns, & yarn. Items made for the cancer center, YRMC neonatal, Navaho nation, Homeless in Yuma & Las Vegas. Thank you all for the gifts to this mission.

* * * * *

Audio-Visual Equipment Update:

Neil & Micah will install the rest of the A/V equipment. So, we have received \$8,350.00 in donations. The equipment costs so far are: \$6,273.71. We still the labor costs of approximately \$2,000.00, Laptop & software for approximately \$1,000.00.

Once we have this AV equipment up & running, Marisol Harriss will be available to mentor others on how to operate the AV slides for Sunday worship. We will need two people each week for these worship slides. Each week, one person will place the worship information into the computer, prior to Sunday worship service(s). The other person will run the slides during the Sunday morning worship service. Very soon, our worship space will be transformed and renewed.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your generosity from the bottom of my heart!! ---David

* * * * *

Prayer Requests:

If you have prayer requests you can call the chairman of the Prayer Chain: Mary Barefoot at 1-757-685-5657 or call Marilyn or Debbie in the office at 928-342-0345.

* * * * *

For a copy of our approved re-opening plan you may come to the office or request it by email at: office@gilamountain.org. Please remember we are still waiting for the bishop to say we can open.

You will be required to sign the Church Covenant & a COVID-19 Waiver when we are able to come together again.

* * * * *

Office hours: The church office hours are Monday thru Thursday 9:00 am to noon.

* * * * *

Masks are required inside all buildings per Gov. Ducey & Yuma County Board of Supervisors. This also includes the church building. If you do not have one, we have a supply for you to pick from in the office for free.

* * * * *

Ushers & Greeters needed:

Brother's & Sister's as of today I have 13 people signed up & we will need 16 people per worship. If you are willing to be an Usher or Greeter once we re-open please let Marilyn Hohnstein know by calling the church office at 928-342-0345 or her cell at 928-210-6344 or by text or email at office@gilamountain.org or ashquo2@gmail.com . Please do not assume you are on the list. Three of the requirements to be an usher or greeter will be:

1. Your temperature will be taken with an infrared forehead thermometer upon arrival, any temp. over 100.4 degrees will be asked to return home.
2. You will be required to wear a mask & face shield at all times. Face masks & shields will be provided to you.
3. We will have a meeting before we start to go through the procedures needed to have worship.

We will start out with 2 worship services when we reopen. One at 8:30 am & one at 10:00 am.

The following people have signed up to be ushers/greeters:

Mary & Eric Barefoot	Toni Olsen
Judy Zauner	Jeri Cooper
Rose Moodie	Judie Lindeman
Roxie Kline	Bob Seikel
Betty Little	Debbie Williams
Linda & Del Gower	

If you are not on this list please call me soon.

Thank you,
Marilyn

* * * * *

Gila Mountain UMC Tithes, donations & contributions: I'm including the contributions we have received for the last 3 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

September Contributions received to date:

Sept. 8, 2020 \$ 3,365.30
Total for Sept.: \$ 3,365.30

The balanced needed to make our budget is: \$ 21,634.70

Thank you for your help in trying to meet our monthly budget of: \$25,000.00 even though the church is closed for worship & meetings the bills for utilities, maintenance & other regular bills continue to come in. We have cut our spending down to only basics to save as much money as possible.

* * * * *

Counters needed:

Love to play with money? Well every Monday we need 2 people to count the prior week's offering. If you are interested please call the office.

* * * * *

Sunday Worship:

Are you having trouble getting the recorded YouTube worship service? You can get there 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.

If you see blue tape on the wall in the sanctuary that is where the 82" TV screens will be mounted.

* * * * *

Prayer Requests: Do you have requests? If so email or call the office with your prayer requests. You have asked that we please keep the following people wrapped in your love & Prayers: Cliff Updike; Marie Nettles; All Caregivers; All grieving; Colleen & Densel Spray; Diann

Fullerton; Gail Smit; Lois Young; Wendy Urquidez; Ebe & Ned; Janice Oakes; Carlene & Bonnie Givens; Beverly Bell; Healing for the World; Andy & Nicky K.; Kiser family; Rachael; Gary & Norma Tomlinson; Regena Huffman; Shawn Gray; Charlie & Maryann Tittle; Amy Orosco; Judie Lindeman; Dick & Mary Jane Ware; Linda Brockman; Jerry Duve; Kim Blasia; Chris Odom; Lindsey; Dale Zedicher; Robert Smetts; John M. Harlach; Colton Kenning; Harriss family; Dalene Kelly; Joanne Punda; Fisher family; Darlene Rhue Stewart; Lorraine Miller; Gridley family; Alexa Ramos & family; Carrie David; Ann Craig; All school employees & students; Bonnie Leil; Kathleen Wyre; Ethel Ergange; Fay Hix; Ed & Joyce Dart; Marlin Cooper; Huberta Powell; Louie Yudin; Redman family; Jill & Jessie Akers; Bob Lodge; Jean Stanley; Neil Tucker; Debbie Williams; Susan Molyneux; Ted Vadman; Kate Campa & family; Jan Butler & family

I talked to Pastor Jen today 9/8 to regarding her brother who was released from the hospital to a hotel room for 14 days isolation. He is getting better and waiting for the results of the second COVID-19 tests. Jen also asked that I thank everyone for their continued prayers. Grace & Peace, Jen

* * * * *

Bible studies: Are being held via zoom until further notice.

Both studies are open to men, women & children. Please do not be afraid to join a zoom bible study meeting. The links will be in the Chatter soon.

Tuesday Bible Study:

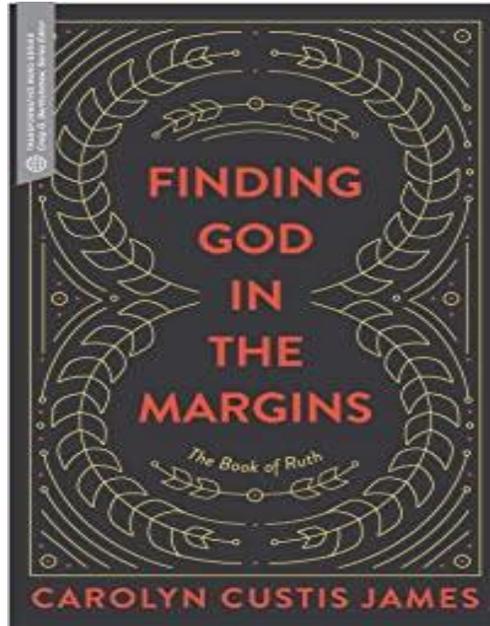
Canceled Revelation for Today, on Tuesdays at 12 p.m.

If you would like to be a part of this study, please e-mail the Church Front Office or David Harriss (davijon66@gmail.com) to sign up. I look forward to seeing you at this study. More information will be forthcoming in the upcoming weeks regarding this study. Mark your calendars and send me an e-mail if you would like to attend.

The Zoom Meeting link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82887170941?pwd=WHVYSGhKWWEvQ0x4OEVZRVZmcWlyQT09>

Wednesday Bible Study:



New Book Study: *Finding God in the Margins/
The Book of Ruth*

**When: Study begins on Wednesday, September
16th, at 9 am./ Via Zoom (4 Weeks)**

Book Cost: \$16.00/ Books available Friday, 09-11-2020

We live in a day of hot-button issues, including: racial equality/ inequality, immigration practices, economic inequality, and an infamous health care debate. Where do we find God in the midst of social issues? Finding God in the Margins helps us study the book of Ruth with this question in mind. Come join us!

* * * * *

Please pull your directory out: call at least one person every day. During this time of Covid we have disconnected our selves from all the people you see on Sunday's. Please do not feel like you are bothering anyone, as it maybe the only call they receive this week. The Covid has isolated us all to the extent that we have lost touch with the normal world. So please reach out to someone you haven't seen or talked to in months. Thank you.

Calling Shut-ins: Most of our Brothers & Sisters in nursing homes are not allowed out of their own rooms & there are many at home that feel the same way because of COVID-19. So please call those who are shut-in and others who are not. Those in nursing facilities are:

Marie Nettles is home & her number is: 928-248-4974

Betty Starr is at Life Care 928-344-0425

Cliff Updike is at River Valley Estates 928-433-6958

Dianne Fullerton at Copper Hills 928-723-3401

Gail Smit at Emerald Springs 928-329-7707

At Desert Rose you will find: Bev Jepson #316;

Lita Kalman #332; Anna Jane Crouse #220 928-615-8093

* * * * *

September Birthdays:

Warren Cook; Jim Hollandsworth; Nancy Iverson; David Harriss; Phil Fraser; Rose Moodie; Gene Lasater; Benjamin Burns; Dave Dicky; Leon Miller; Don Iverson; Eric Barefoot
Sharon Haddock; Candy Abbott; Carla Hupp; Del Gower;
Stephanie Kroll; Barbara Walthers; Genny Clark; Bill McFarland.

September Anniversaries:

Don & Doris Bailey
Steve & Barbara Stevens
Jim & Margie Hollandsworth
Ron & Kay Wilson
Leon & Lorraine Miller
Don & Nancy Iverson
Eric & Mary Barefoot
Warren & Pat Cook

* * * * *

Per Yuma County Health Department

WOW, the numbers are going down a little more every day. Keep up the good work!

Currently the COVID-19 county for Yuma County
as of today, is:

(These are Saturday's numbers)

12,260 positive cases, with 36 since Thursday.

327 deaths with 4 since Thursday

We need to stay the course to keep ourselves safe & all of our friends & family safe.

As one sign said we need to keep Yuma healthy.

I don't know about you but I'm ready for a warm smile or hug or better yet both, aren't you?

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

We pray for your safety, health & happiness until we meet again. Know you are all wrapped in God's love today and every day.

Yours in Grace & Peace,
Pastor David, Marilyn, Lorna & Debbie
Gila Mountain United Methodist Church
12716 N. Frontage Road
Yuma, AZ 85367
(928) 342-0345