

First Edition

OCTOBER 2017



You're invited to

COMIN' HOME SUNDAY

October 29th, 2017

starts at the 9:30am service

\$5 LUNCH* | MUSIC | GAMES
& ACTIVITIES for KIDS

*All proceeds go to UMCOR

Fun, Food & Games

COMIN' HOME SUNDAY

Celebrate the beautiful cool weather and our church family coming together for the start of the holiday season on Sunday, October 29.

Enjoy a catered lunch and our ever-popular pie auction plus music and children's activities.

All are invited to attend in Ross Hall following the 9:30 a.m. service.

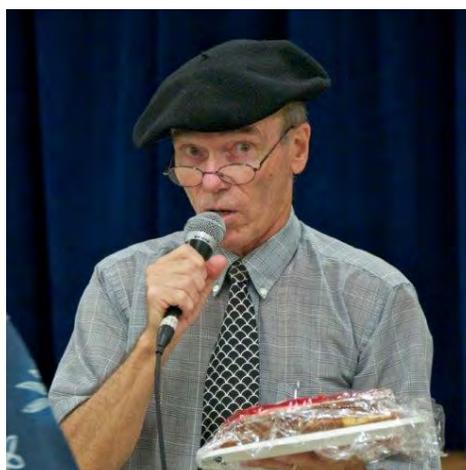
Our musical celebration will feature Tempe First's own band led by Scott Gardner.

Children can play games and are invited to come dressed in their Halloween costumes.

Be sure to prepare for our annual pie auction! Bring any kind of pie that you want—we'll have everything from old family recipes to fancy gourmet to grocery store bakery pies.

Suggested donation for our meal is \$5 per person with no more than \$20 per family.

Contact the church office to volunteer to help decorate or run activities with the kids.



Warren Dennis, our pie autioneer

Comin' Home Sunday is the perfect opportunity to invite a friend to join us for worship and stay for the festivities.

AFTERGLOW

Tempe First has a new Worship Service

Please join us for a very contemporary service every Friday night at 7:00 P.M.

This service is led by the young adults in our church.

All are welcome.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tempe First's Annual Charge Conference is set for Monday, October 30, at 7p.m. in the sanctuary. It's a great time to meet our district superintendent, the Rev. N. Susan Brims, who serves as Central East District superintendent of the Desert Southwest Conference.

It's also an important time to hear about all the latest happenings in our congregation. We'll take care of important business and talk about future projects. Our senior pastor, the Rev. Camille Pentsil, and her team have been working hard and plan to have a full roster of church committee members to present. Plan now to attend and support our congregation.

BOUTIQUE DATES

Our wonderful Boutique will be held once again in Ross Hall from November 2 until November 5. Times will be posted in the bulletin and on Constant Contact.

UMW

October 12: General meeting
10:00 am Prayer and self-Denial Friends and Fellowship Brunch Potluck - Ross Hall

October 13: Annual Celebration DaySpring 9:00-2:00 pm Check Connectin Link for details

October 14: UMW Sunday - Details later

October 17: DDC MEETING AT church- CRAFTS!!!!!!

October 20-21: Yuma Conference - contact Kathy for a ride!!!!!!

WCC: Needs children's books, magazines (National Geographics, DVD's on travel or animals for afterschool programs

From the Pastor

These are interesting days and there is a lot of talk. While intense and expensive clean-up is going on after Harvey and Irma, the wildfires in Montana and the Northwest are wreaking their own havoc. Not to mention earthquakes and mudslides in other parts of the world.

I read the other day that there was a tremendous earthquake in the Superstition Mountains in 1897. There were no seismographs in those days but it caused huge landslides which great chunks of rock breaking off the face of the mountain. That is very close to home for me!

Then there is the constant threat of terrorism and nuclear war. Racism seems to be on the rise . . . again.

Listening to K-LOVE while I'm driving helps me stay centered. Singing those Christian songs at the top of my lungs helps my stress level. And, all through these times of disaster, every kind of disaster, in every part of the world, K-LOVE has focused on "hope."

Story after story about goodness and kindness that has emerged from the depths of despair. Many people, young and old, have pitched in to make things easier for others who have been hard hit.

On August 29, I was talking to my aunt and uncle in Beaumont, Texas as they watched water coming into their home.

It was 10 days before I heard they were evacuated to a shelter just hours after we talked. My cousin drove from Colorado to get them. They lost everything.

Through the experience of trying to understand how best to help in this situation, I connected with several cousins I have not seen or talked to since 1964. A blessing amid disaster.

When I study the Bible, I understand it to be books of stories that show many ways God has connected with people through hundreds of thousands of years.

In some cases, the stories are not pleasant. In many instances, the people God has used for God's purposes have not been righteous people.

In all ways, though, the Bible shows God with the people, always with the people.

This is what we cling to in these days, this is the hope we find through the Bible: that God is with us through it all.

This is our faith, the very rock we stand on. There is no place where God is not. We move forward in hope.

Rosemary Anderson

Associate Pastor

HE CALLED A JAIL CELL "HOME"

Coval Russell spent 426 days in jail for stabbing his landlord with a pocketknife back in April 2001.

It was the only time he ever ran afoul of the law. And that could be considered a tribute of sorts to Mr. Russell, for he was 90 years old when he committed his crime. He had never even had a traffic ticket before.

He was a World War II veteran who lived in Paradise until he got in trouble. (I didn't make that up. Paradise is a quiet little town in California.) Behind bars, the other inmates of Butte County Jail called him "Pops" and gave him dibs on the TV set, let him go first in the food line, and reserved him a place in the Monopoly game marathons. Blind in one eye and suffering from prostate cancer, Russell loved his tiny cell.

The relationships he formed with the transient population in jail appear to have rescued him from a life of unmitigated loneliness.

As the time drew near for Mr. Russell to be released, he petitioned the court to remain in jail. The lifelong bachelor had outlived all of his relatives. He was no longer welcome in Paradise.

The only place he felt he had any friends was in the Butte County Jail. So he told the judge he would kill himself if he was sent "back out there" where he had nobody.

But he had something like \$20,000 in his bank account. He had no mental illness that either incapacitated him or made him a threat to others. So the judge had no choice but to order him released at the end of June. No, he didn't want any help getting into an assisted-living residence. And he refused all other suggestions for what he might consider to reestablish himself as a free man.

After two weeks of living in a motel, he took a cab to a 40-foot high bridge and apparently jumped headfirst onto river rocks below. The man who had told someone he had nothing to live for was dead.

A fellow-inmate with "Pops" was told about the death of the man who had been an unofficial grandfather to many of the younger prisoners. "We were a motley crew," he said, "but we were family nonetheless."

This sad story reminds all of us that there are people around us who are incredibly lonely. Some are elderly or jailed. But many are preschoolers, teens, or people in upscale neighborhoods. Is there a greater misery than being unwanted?

Loneliness was the first thing God saw in all creation that he said was not good. Be on the lookout this week for someone who is suffering its miseries.

OUR YEARLY BOUTIQUE

If you are new to Tempe First United Methodist Church, we would like to introduce you to the “Stitch in Time” Holiday Boutique.

The Boutique provides a unique shopping opportunity. All the items available for purchase have been made by members of SIT and our loyal contributors.

Stop in and stop by the Boutique, November 2nd - November 5th.

There will be a Silent Auction Quilt: Kaleidoscopic Kraze.



Quilts from previous years.



Kaleidoscopic Quilt

AED TRAINING

A training session for the AED units and for CPR, will be given by the Tempe Fire Department.

It's on Saturday, October 7 at 9:00 am in Ross Hall and should last about 1 1/2 hours.

There is no charge. EVERYONE is welcome to come!

SHOWER MINISTRY

In October our Shower Ministry for homeless guests needs men's and women's socks and shaving cream.

To volunteer with the ministry, contact the Rev. Rosemary Anderson, 480-967-3376 in the church office or e-mail her at pastorrosemary@tempe-firstumc.org.

FEATURED MEMBER

No doubt over the past few years, you have been noticing some of the beautiful updates to the bulletins, newsletters, postcards, and other printed material at Tempe First UMC.

The person behind all this? Jennifer Testamarck, graphic designer and owner of MakeJoy Studio in Tempe.

Jenn has been a member of Tempe First since 2005, and is the granddaughter of the late Rev. Dean Humbert, a United Methodist pastor in the Valley since the 1970s.

After completing her masters at ASU in Visual Communication Design, she formed a graphic design company in Tempe to help small business & non-profits with their graphic design needs.

Besides her work with Tempe First, she has done lots of work for several United Methodist organizations around the US including Foothills UMC in Sacramento, CA, First UMC in Gastonia, NC, Potosi Pines Camp in Nevada, and in Arizona: Song of



Jennifer Testamarck

Life UMC in Queen Creek, and Trinity Heights UMC in Flagstaff.

We truly value her artistic talents and her mission to help the United Methodist Church have a visual voice!

If your ministry or church event would like to use her services, you can contact Jenn at 602.653.8965 or jenn@makejoystudio.com - she would love to hear from you!

FLU CLINIC

“This years Flu clinic will be

held Sunday October 15th at 8:30 to 11 am. The clinic will be held in the Eugenia Smart Lounge.

Ha Nguyen a clinical pharmacist will again provide the flu shots. Sponsored by Safeway Pharmacies.

Please bring your insurance cards, pharmacy health insurance card and or Medicare cards to the clinic. If you don't have pharmacy health insurance cards there will be a fee.

Please bring cash as Ha cannot accept credit cards. Last year there were problems processing checks.

You will get a receipt indicating payment. Thus you can submit a copy of the receipt to your insurance company for reimbursement.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Thoughts and prayers for the family and friends of Rev. Jackie Somerville, on her recent passing.

Prayers for the family and friends of Lorla Miller, on her recent passing.

THE FELIZ NAVIDAD GIFT BAGS

This project is for the very needy children of Fuente de Vida Mexican Methodist Church in Agua Prieta, Mexico.

Fuente de Vida is in one of the poorest areas of one of the border towns in Mexico. The church has grown so dramatically that they can hardly fit one more person in the sanctuary for worship.

That blessing of incredible growth, however, means new families with more children.

The Feliz Navidad Bag project is organized by Desert Foothills UMC, and involves several Methodist churches in the Southwest Annual Conference.

This marks the 12th year that Tempe 1st has supported in this ministry. We ask your help in filling 50 bags.

The major gift in the bag is a new sweatshirt and then filled with small gift and snack items. Sweatshirts are winter clothing and the children need them and wear them.



The bags, along with the names and ages of the children will be available starting Sunday, October 22. Please keep this date in mind because the bags need to be filled and returned to the church by November 12. Desert Foothills missions committee will transport all of the gifts to Agua Prieta in early December when they will have a Christmas party for the children.

HELP WANTED

A sign was hung in an office window. It read: Help wanted.

- Must type 70 words a minute.
- Must be computer literate.

- Must be bilingual.
 - An equal opportunity employer.
- A dog was ambling down the street and saw the sign. He looked at it for a moment, pulled it down with his mouth, and walked into the manager's office, making it clear he wished to apply for the job.

The office manager laughed and said, "I can't hire a dog for this job."

The dog pointed to the line: "An equal opportunity employer."

So the manager said, "OK, take this letter and type it." The dog went off to the word processor and returned a minute later with the finished letter, perfectly formatted.

The manager said, "Alright, here's a problem. Write a computer program for it and run it." Fifteen minutes later, the dog came back with the correct answer.

The manager still wasn't convinced. "I still can't hire you for this position. You've got to be bilingual."

The dog looked up at the manager and said, "Meow."