

# The Catalina News

June, 2023

Volume 72, Issue 6

## FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MIKE

When I was asked to come to Catalina to serve as your pastor, one of the questions I was asked was whether I would be supportive of Catalina's decision to be a Reconciling Congregation. I answered that I would definitely support that decision. In fact, I welcomed the opportunity to serve a Reconciling Congregation. However, I have never served a church that was open and affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community—until now. I have tried to be open and affirming throughout my ministry as a pastor. But, I have not had that experience at an organizational/congregational level.

That has meant that I have had to do some learning about what it means to be a Reconciling Congregation and that learning is ongoing. I want to share some of what I have learned about where Catalina is as a Reconciling Congregation.

Your discernment and work around being a Reconciling Congregation began a while ago. I don't remember the exact year (I think it was 2015), but it was well before the actual decision took place in 2019. Prior to that decision the church engaged in learning, (continued on pg. 4)

## MISSIONS UPDATE

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Making** – Wow! Back on May 5<sup>th</sup>, we decided to hold our first PB&J sandwich making event since Covid forced us to discontinue this outreach. The May event was a huge success, with more than 20 volunteers making more than 1,200 sandwiches in less than two hours. Our hard work supplied the needs of our homeless (continued on pg. 2)



Catalina  
United Methodist Church  
2700 E Speedway Tucson  
AZ 85716  
520-327-4296  
Catalinamethodist.org

Rev. Mike Kerr-Osman,  
Sr. Pastor  
Rev. Matt Colby,  
Associate Pastor



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PG 1 PASTOR MIKE;  
MISSIONS UPDATE
- PG 3 ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
MISSION  
PROJECTS
- Pg 7 UPCOMING  
EVENTS
- Pg 8 PRAYER  
REQUESTS

## MISSIONS UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

and hungry neighbors for about four days, so, we need to do it again! **Who is available from about 3:00 pm to as late as 6:00 pm on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>?** (The ending time is somewhat determined by the number of volunteers we have). We will make sandwiches until the bread is gone. We could use up to 20 volunteers for this event. This schedule may allow those who come from work to still stop by and volunteer for an hour or more. **Join us on June 30<sup>th</sup> in Room E23 and be ready to glove up and spread that peanut butter!**

**Primavera Men's Shelter** – Another successful outreach at the Primavera Men's Shelter was completed on May 27th. Our next event will be on Saturday, June 24th. We plan this outreach on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays each month in 2023, 2-6pm. The menu is planned, and grocery shopping is done by team leaders. The work involves standing and lifting while cooking and serving. All volunteers who are vaccinated, gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome. (Masks may be required). **Who wants to help on Saturday, June 24th?**



*PB&J Volunteers at work*

**Casa Maria Soup Kitchen** – Catalina's next cooking date is scheduled for Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30-10:30am. An early morning mission outreach, our

team of 3 volunteers cook and serve our summer recipe of "taco salad," made from scratch, for more than 200 of our neighbors suffering from homelessness and hunger. All the grocery shopping is done by a team leader. This work involves standing, lifting, cooking, and serving in a very small kitchen. All volunteers who are vaccinated, gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome. (Masks may be required). **We need 2 more volunteers for July 1<sup>st</sup>.**



*1200 PB&J sandwiches*

**Market on the Move** – Catalina's volunteers wrapped up our final Market on the Move event of the year on Saturday morning, May 20th, serving approximately 72 of our church neighbors. Our Market on the Move season runs from January through May. However, the nonprofit distributor, the 3000 Club, will continue to offer surplus fruit and vegetables for sale through their main warehouse throughout the year. Catalina looks forward to resuming Market on the Move again in January 2024. Thank you so much for those who have helped us with this 2023 neighborhood outreach.

To participate in any of our outreach contact Doug Wingert at [dougingert@gmail.com](mailto:dougingert@gmail.com).

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE MISSION PROJECTS 2023

On February 24th, the Sessions Committee, our planning body for Annual Conference, confirmed the three mission projects for this year. The projects are as follows. Donations for all three can be received at <https://dscumc.org/mission-project-donation/>.

- ◆ Ukraine UMC Support
- ◆ RIP Medical Debt
- ◆ Turkey & Syria Earthquake Relief

What is notable about all three projects is the ongoing nature of needed support and prayer. Turkey, Syria, and Ukraine will need support for families to rebuild entire lives – shelter, clothing, food, schools, even businesses – the very economics to make life whole again. Yet in each of those countries, there is one constant – Hope. People “of” hope, living into Hope. All three countries need yes, our financial support, but also our prayers – our continuous prayers as we are taught to do by the God who loves us without ceasing.

In our own country and, in this case, our own states – we know the deafening effects of inflation and how crushing medical debt can be – both for those who have insurance and for the many who do not or who’s coverage simply does not address the escalating cost burden. The weight of debt so great families must declare bankruptcy and determine a way to survive.

Our Conference is a generous Conference. Year after year, we have witnessed the power of Desert Southwest United Methodists making a difference in the lives of so many. I can already feel the blessings to come. Here we go!!! Annual Conference Mission Projects 2023 are here!



The graphic features a colorful, low-poly geometric background in shades of yellow, orange, and purple. In the center, the text "#WeAre" is written in a large, bold, black font with a brushstroke effect. Below it, the words "WRESTLING, ENGAGING, RISING" are written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. Underneath that, "GENESIS 32-33 | LUKE 22-24" is written in a black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "Desert Southwest Annual Conference" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by "June 15-17, 2023 at Mesa Convention Center, 263 N. Center St. Mesa, AZ 85201" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. At the very bottom, a line of text reads "Delta Marriott is Fully Booked – Some rooms may become available. Contact Dina Reid at dreid@dscumc.org to be added to the waitlist."

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

presentations, surveys, prayer, discernment, and much more. You all went through a lot of work to arrive at the decision to becoming reconciling. In mid-2019, that initial work came to an end. The group of 40 or so people that led the efforts toward becoming a Reconciling Congregation were “decommissioned” by the Administrative Board and a new group was formed to continue the work moving forward.

This new group, called the “Implementation Team,” began in mid-2019 as the work of the initial group came to an end. Some of their work led to some seminars that took place in January and February of 2020. Vicki Hadd-Wissler led one called “Four Elements of Sexual Identity and Expression” and Kirk Reed led two seminars on “How to be Faithful and Inclusive” and “The Future of the United Methodist Church” (this was also done in the fall of 2022).



As we all know, March, 2020 followed those first three seminars. The pandemic hit and most of our usual patterns of church shut down for a year. Meaning, like so many things that stopped during the pandemic, the work of the Implementation Team was disrupted as well. So, just as we had to start back up where we left off in March of 2020 on many different things, it’s time to pick back up on the work the Implementation Team was doing.

Over the summer, I will be working to get a group of people together to continue the work—perhaps the same team or some of the previous members with the addition of some new members. Hopefully by the end of summer, we will be ready to continue the work of learning and living into what it means to be a Reconciling Congregation. If you are personally interested in this topic and would like to learn more, you can go to the Reconciling Ministries Network website <https://rmnetwork.org/>. They have a tab labeled “Resources.” There you will find links to lots of different topics related to congregations and how to be supportive of the LGBTQIA+ community.

—Pastor Mike

I want to write about connection. As the video producer for Catalina United Methodist Church, I see my role as helping people connect to worship services both inside and outside the Sanctuary. It's an important time to consider our connections in church and beyond as we gradually adopt new actions, types of communication, and engagement intended to grow the congregation.

Our connection to each other, our relationships, enrich our lives providing us with meaningful experiences that otherwise would not be possible. I've learned that our connections to others is the very means by which we grow and develop as individuals. I believe this, and believe that it is true for communities as well as for individuals. Recently, my wife Sara asked me to share something I particularly liked about our relationship. After thinking about all the wonderful things I could say, many stated before, I chose to share something new to our conversation; I told her that I appreciate more and more who I am becoming because of our relationship... I am not who I would be if not for our marriage.

The challenges and gifts of our connection have nurtured a better version of me than I would have envisioned on my own. I believe this also applies to Catalina United Methodist Church as we broaden our connection to the surrounding community; we can appreciate who we are becoming because of developing relationships—new connections.



The readiness survey many of us responded to recently provided a glimpse at who we are, what we find important, and the amount of change we are ready to engage collectively. While thinking about connection, I encourage everyone gently to lean in to the process with anticipation for the version of ourselves we discover.

Are you receiving our weekly E-news? If not, you can sign up for it by filling out the “Contact Us” form on our website and requesting your email be added to our mailing list. The latest news will appear in your in-box every Thursday!

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Come get Wild About Jesus with us! Catalina UMC Children's Ministry offers Vacation Bible School July 10-13 for ages 4-11. It's full of games, activities, and learning about God's love for us. Visit <https://www.catalinamethodist.org/children-and-families/> to register!

Thank you for your continued support and if you would like to volunteer for any of our upcoming activities please contact

## “IN FROM THE HEAT” - JUNE 17—PAUL OFTEDAHL

Cool your heels this summer with the first of our “In From the Heat” recital luncheons on Saturday, June 17. Paul Oftedahl, 1st Place in Regional Quimby AGO 2021, is pursuing his Ph.D. in Chemistry at Iowa State and will perform in our Sanctuary following a 12pm luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$20 per person or \$30 for two!

Dr. Stephen Keyl, Organist, Music Director at St. Albans Episcopal in Tucson will headline our Saturday, July 15th recital.

Purchase tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/in-from-the-heat-luncheon-and-organ-recital-tickets-604119085447>



*Paul Oftedahl*

## YOU COULD BE A STAR IN THE AZ DAILY STAR!

On Sundays The AZ Daily Star prints a page called Keeping the Faith where someone from the local community writes 500 or so words about faith and scripture. This is free – there is no charge and the community really enjoys it. For your submission, contact Sara Brown, Opinion Coordinator at 520-807-8466. She would like to hear your story!

## SING IN THE SUMMER!



No Thursday night rehearsal needed. Just join the Sanctuary Choir on Sundays at 9:15 and sing an anthem at the 10 am service. Contact [ben@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:ben@catalinamethodist.org) if interested, or just see me on Sunday!



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT CUMC

### **June 15-17, Annual Conference—Mesa, AZ**

Registration at <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/>

### **June 17, Noon—3pm— In From the Heat Recital & Lunch Series**

See full article on pg 6

### **Friday, June 30, 3-6 pm—Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Making**

See Missions article on page 1

### **July 10-13, 8 am – 12 pm—Wild About Jesus Vacation Bible School**

See page 6 for registration information

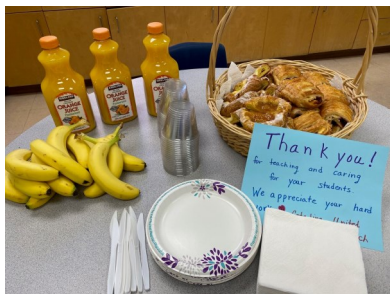
### **KOINONIA CLASS FOR ADULTS: 9am on Sundays in Room E-23**

Summer Break - we'll resume in September

### **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: June 14 - July 12, Wednesdays at 9:30am in Room H230**

The study is “Help is Here” by Max Lucado. You can purchase the book on Christianbook.com or Amazon. Please call or email Brenda Halferty if you plan on attending. [Bjhalferty@gmail.com](mailto:Bjhalferty@gmail.com) or 520-481-6993.

**SEEKERS ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sundays at 8:45-9:45am, Room H-230.** A desire to enrich your understanding and faith is the only requirement. Join us for a variety of video-based lessons led by volunteer teachers from the class.



## THANK YOU BLENMAN ELEMENTARY TEACHERS!

Catalina United Methodist church showed their appreciation for the teachers and staff of Blenman Elementary school. Thank you for providing a delicious breakfast brunch!

**LOOKING FOR THE MONTHLY BIBLE VERSES?** Pastor Mike refers to the Vanderbilt University Revised Common Lectionary which you can access on line at <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> If you would like a copy in print, let the office know and we will mail it to you.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

...the family of Von Jackson, sister to Opal Weaver, who recently passed away.  
...Judy Brummet, Don and the family. Don has been moved to an assisted care home called Canyon View. He would love visitors and or notes! The address is 1331 E Sobre Lomas, Tucson, 85718. Phone Judy at 520-975-5816 to arrange a visit.

...Rev. Kirk Reed who is recovering from surgery.

...the family of Helen Rishel, who passed away on Thursday, April 27. A Celebration of Life Service, will be held for Helen Rishel on Sat. June 3rd at 10 am in the Chapel. All are welcome to attend. Please continue to pray for Helen's family to have God's comfort and peace.

...Grace UMC, Douglas; Huachuca UMC; Menlo Park UMC, Tucson.

...an end to war and violence in the Ukraine, Sudan, Syria and all peoples in conflict.



We need all the prayer that we can get...During any time of uncertainty, if you have a prayer need that you would like lifted up to the congregation on this page, please contact [matt@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:matt@catalinamethodist.org)

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

If you will be attending this year's Desert Southwest Annual Conference in Mesa on June 15 -17, 2023 at Mesa Convention Center, 263 N Center St, Mesa, AZ 85201, early registration is now open. For more information on the conference and to register early, visit

[www.dscumc.org/annual-conference](http://www.dscumc.org/annual-conference)

We can't wait to worship with you! Join us every Sunday at 10:00am for service in the Sanctuary. If you would like to join us via livestream, visit [www.catalinamethodist.org](http://www.catalinamethodist.org)

Catalina UMC office is open Mon-Thur, 10am-3pm.

We're here to help in any way we can and it's always nice to have visitors!

To submit articles to the newsletter please contact Susan O'Brien at [office@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:office@catalinamethodist.org)