



The Catalina News

November, 2023

Volume 72, Issue 11

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MIKE

Each year during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, we take time to reflect on stewardship. For this year, our stewardship focus will take place on the first three Sundays of November during worship. To help, we will be using a resource called “Loving Our Neighbors Near and Far” that looks at stewardship from three different angles. For each week, we will share a sermon on each of the angles. Additionally, the liturgy will ground the theme. Lastly, each week a different person from the congregation will share a personal reflection from their own life.

Week one is called “God Inspires” and uses John 3:14-21 as its focus. I am calling it, “The Stewardship of Love.” How do we respond to John’s message that God sent Jesus into the world out of God’s deep love for the world? How do we love our neighbors near and far knowing, as John tells us, that Jesus came not to condemn but to save the world?

Week two is called “Ordinary People Called to Do Extraordinary Things” and uses the Gospel of Matthew 4:18-22 as its focus. Perhaps we could call this “The Stewardship of God’s Call.” In the passage, Jesus calls ordinary (continued on pg 4

MISSIONS UPDATE

Primavera Men’s Shelter – We still need more volunteers for November 25th and possibly December 23rd. This outreach is planned for the 4th Saturdays of each month, from approximately 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The menu is planned, and the grocery shopping will be done by team leaders. The work involves standing and lifting, cooking, and serving. All volunteers who are vaccinated, gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome. (continued on pg 2)



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

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



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MISSIONS UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PG 1)

The November date is the Saturday following Thanksgiving, which may make it difficult to recruit the help we need. If you would like to volunteer, please notify Doug Wingert, at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen – Catalina's missions team will be scheduled to cook and serve our special chicken and vegetable soup recipe again on Saturday morning, December 16th. This is an early morning mission outreach where our team of 3 volunteers cook and serve up food, cooked from scratch, for more than 200 of our neighbors suffering from homelessness and hunger. We start very early, (approximately 6:30 am to 10:30 am). 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. If you would like to volunteer, please notify Doug Wingert, at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Making – I know many of you have been anxious to participate in another PB&J sandwich making marathon. Well, we have scheduled our next event for Friday afternoon, December 15th in room E23, next to the church kitchen. We will need about 20 sandwich makers. Stand by for more information as the date approaches.



Casa Alitas Welcome Center Clothing Drive – We have completed the clothing drive, as of the end of October. Catalina, you did a wonderful job of donating more than a ton of clothing. The Casa Alitas coordinator sent us a thank you card, along with some beautiful cards made by the migrant children.

On behalf of all of us
at Casa Alitas,
Thank you so much
for your support and
donations..
We are so very
grateful!

Blessings
Debbie Hessler
Clothing Coordinator



Interfaith Community Services

(ICS) Food Drive – Was also completed at the end of October.

Through our congregation's generosity, more than 100 lbs of food for those living with hunger in Tucson and Southern Arizona.

Packathon – Our annual Packathon event was held on Sunday afternoon, October 22, 2023. More than 100 volunteers from a number of congregations came together and packed 50,000 meals during the afternoon. These meal packs will be distributed throughout Tucson, Southern Arizona, and Sonora Mexico for those living with hunger. Thank you, Catalina, for your time, your financial contributions and your prayers.

PACKATHON 2023– WHAT A SUCCESS!

BY DOUG WINGERT

The multi-faith Packathon was held on Oct. 22nd, and once again Catalina UMC helped to organize, fund, and participate in this massive charitable event to package 50,000 high-protein meals in support of local feeding programs. Over 175 volunteers gathered at the Muslim Community Center of Tucson and worked side-by-side with people of other faiths for three hours in order to complete their impressive goal. The dry food meals are formulated by The Outreach Program, which has now been helping to administer these major packing events for 20 years all around the country. In addition to Catalina and the Muslim Center, other volunteers came from Our Savior's Lutheran, St. James UMC, the UA Hillel Foundation, the UA Lutheran Campus Ministry, and Davis-Monthan AFB. A generous financial contribution was also received from the LDS Church. So after all of that

hard work, where do the 50,000 packed meals go? Following the event, volunteers are continuing to work to distribute the food to organizations such as The Gospel Rescue Mission, La Frontera, the Salvation Army, Casas Alitas, the Z Mansion, Fuente de Vida, and the Marana Community Food Bank. A big thank you to everyone at Catalina that contributed financially to this effort and to our dozens of volunteers that came to the event. Well done!



Catalina UMC church office is open M-Th, 10am—3pm.
We're here to help in any way we can, and it's always nice to have visitors!

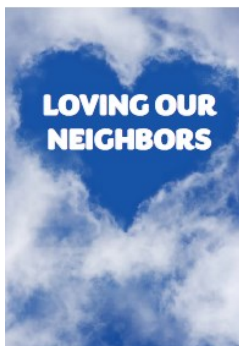
MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

fishermen engaged in their daily work. Jesus does not go to the temple or to the palace to find people to help him in God's work. Jesus calls ordinary people and with them sets about sharing the good news of God's kingdom near and far.

Week three is called, "A New Way of Life" and uses the passage 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. In this passage Paul tells the Corinthians that God blesses our lives so that, through them, God may bless others. In other words, God "gives you something you can then give away" (*The Message* 9:11). Through the blessings that we receive and share with our

neighbors,
many thanks
are given to
God.

Of course, as a
part of
stewardship,
each of us will
be invited to



**He throws caution to the
winds,
giving to the needy in
reckless abandon.
His right-living, right-giving
ways**

share some of our blessings with our church. An estimate of giving card will be mailed along with a letter. For those who choose to respond to the invitation, we will turn in those cards on the third week of our stewardship time. If, for some reason you do not receive the letter, please let the office know.

I hope you find these three weeks meaningful as we reflect on the many ways in which God blesses us: by loving us, by calling us, and by blessing us that we may bless others.
—*Pastor Mike*

The November-December, 2023 issue of The Upper Room is available for purchase in the office or in the narthex on Sundays.

Our own Doug Wingert has authored a devotional on page 8.

The Daily Devotional Guide is in small pocket guide size for \$1.50 or large print size for \$2.00 each.

UM STUDENT DAY, NOVEMBER 27

We will be collecting a Special Sunday offering on November 27 for United Methodist Student Day as we celebrate and recognize UM students as they pursue their dreams through higher education.

United Methodists have been investing in our students for more than 100 years. In 2022, you gave \$224 thousand to fund over 70 scholarships. Your donation provided scholarships for undergraduate, graduate, or doctoral level programs for United Methodist students. Every dollar – **yes 100%** - received goes towards supporting and educating a new generation of principled Christian leaders for the church and the world. Supporting this Special Sunday is truly an investment in our future.

Donate online or mail your gift to: GCFA, P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203.

Your gifts help young people achieve their educational calling with more financial freedom.



TOGETHER
OUR REACH IS BEYOND MEASURE

The United Methodist Church's special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways

YOUR DONATION CHANGES THE WORLD ONE LIFE AT A TIME


GIVE TO YOUR CHURCH:
Make checks payable to your local church or donate online via credit/debit card at ResourceUMC.org/SSGive



TO GIVE ONLINE SCAN QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA

The light shines in
the darkness and
the darkness doesn't
extinguish the light.

- JOHN 1:5

 Praying for peace.

thanksgiving
gather
thankful family
blessed grateful
together
blessings
november

THANK YOU FROM DENNIS GRANNAN!



Dennis Grannan

Dear Catalina Friends,

I want to thank you for all the wonderful celebrations of my retirement. My last week was filled with parties and good times, thanks to you!

I really enjoyed a lovely staff luncheon hosted by my friends in the church office. We rarely have time to visit and spend time together so that was a wonderful opportunity ...and the catered lunch was delicious!

Thank you to Kris Chapman for hosting a fantastic party given by the Sanctuary Choir and Festival Ringers at her lovely home. All the merrymaking was truly bittersweet as we remembered

many special times over the years! The 'bell choir' gave me a really wonderful lidded Tohono O'odham basket...**so thoughtful!**

The Sanctuary Choir left me speechless (quite rare) by presenting me with a specially designed and created bolo tie by Tucson artist, E M Contreras! It features a design inspired by the facade of the Sanctuary Organ created in silver, turquoise, ivory and jet. **Truly outstanding!**

Following my last service, the entire congregation celebrated with me with cakes and a brilliant send-off! Thank you to the SPRC for arranging this very special party and for the amazing gift! The music box will certainly be treasured as a special tribute to a wonderful church. The tune for the music box is CATALINA, a new hymn commissioned in 2014 for the Easter Day service celebrating the new Quimby pipe organ installed in the Sanctuary.....**a perfect gift!**

And lastly, thank you for the many cards and well-wishes sent. I cherish your friendship and all the beautiful moments in worship we shared over the years.

—Dennis

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.

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Our Women's Bible Study for the fall will be: Better, a study of Hebrews by Jen Wilkin. We recently did her study of Genesis. We will begin on Wednesday, September 6th for 10 weeks ending November 8th. We will meet from 9:30 to 11:30 in H230. You may order your book from Amazon or Christianbook.com. Please contact Brenda Halferty if you are planning to attend. Hope to see you there! bjhalferty@gmail.com 520-481-6993

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: We meet weekly on Wednesday mornings in Room E23 at 6:45 am. For those whose schedules allow, we plan on going to breakfast at 8:00 am following Bible Study.

KOINONIA CLASS FOR ADULTS: We begin the new church year on Sunday, September 10 at 9:00 in Room E23. Each week the group reads a chapter of a lively and thought-provoking book and builds relationships with other adults of all ages. Taught by Rev. Dr. Kirk Reed. Everyone is welcome! Upcoming schedule: November 5—Henri Nouwen, November 12.—John Donne, November 19 NEW BOOK: Celebration of Discipline

CITY OF TUCSON RECYCLING EVENT: NOVEMBER 4, 9am-1pm Drop off recycling by City of Tucson in our west parking lot. Clothing, small home goods, electronics, paper for shredding, scrap metal, prescriptions, eyeglasses, American flags to retire and more.

CATALINA BREAKFAST CLUB: November 4: All are welcome to join us for breakfast at 9am in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Ricky Hernandez, CFO for TUSD whose topic is "Ins and Outs of School Vouchers." Cost is \$4/person.

HELIOS CONCERT November 5, 4pm Don't miss Maurice Duruflé's soothing *Requiem* on Sunday, November 5th at 4:00 p.m. at Catalina, featuring our beautiful symphonic organ and The Helios Ensemble. Come hear beautiful, ethereal sounds, and a variety of other exciting and intriguing works by Howard Hanson, Carten and more! Get your tickets at the door or at www.heliosensemble.org.

THE INN OF SO AZ BENEFIT CONCERT: December 7, 7pm: The Neoteric Chamber Choir and Divine Life Ministries Choir perform at Catalina benefiting the La Posada Inn of So Az which provides temporary housing and resources to vulnerable immigrant families seeking asylum at the AZ border. Tickets are \$10, students free with ID.

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR...

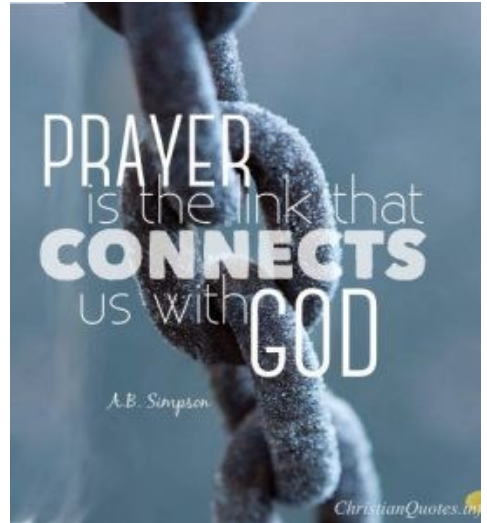
...the family and friends of Carolina Fuentes, Catalina Day School staff member who passed recently. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 10:30am in the CUMC sanctuary. All are invited.

...for Catalina UMC as we begin the process to bring about change and growth in our ministry.

...UMC of the Good Shepherd, Kearny; UMC of Green Valley; Willcox UMC

...an end to war and violence for 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.



Are you receiving our weekly E-news- **Catalina Cares**? If not, you may 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 (or look for it in your “junk mail”) every Thursday! Or—just call the office @ 520-327-4296 and we’ll add your email address for you.

We’re excited 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

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 Deadline to submit is the 20th of each month.