



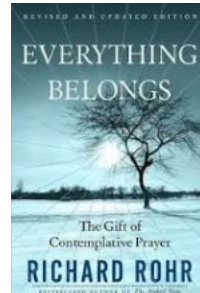
The Catalina News

March, 2024

Volume 73, Issue 03

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MIKE

Lent is fully underway and we are quickly approaching Holy Week and Easter. I want to let you know about some of the opportunities for worship and formation during Lent and into Holy Week. I am leading a book discussion on Father Richard Rohr's book *Everything Belongs*. Rohr's book is an invitation to the contemplative prayer life. In this book, he does not get into the how to of contemplative prayer. Instead, he focuses on the gifts contemplative prayer bring into our lives—offering us a different way to connect to God.



For a little context, contemplative prayer in Christian tradition is similar to what Eastern religions call meditation. Contemplation is a silent waiting on God. In contemplative prayer we do not come to God with our own agenda but with the intention of opening ourselves to the presence and action of God in our lives. It is, then, a prayer of silence, waiting and trusting that the Spirit knows us and can work in our lives as we set aside our agendas for a time.

For the book discussion, we will meet on (continued on page 4)

MISSIONS UPDATE

Market on the Move – We had a very successful Market on the Move outreach on February 17th. Our additional banner, posted on Speedway a few days before the event, seems to help bring in additional customers. (Now we need to figure out how to bring in customers who are over at Himmel Park). Our next Market on the Move will be held on March 16th from 8:00 am to 10:00 am in our east parking lot. Interested in helping? (continued on page 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)

Contact dougwingert@gmail.com. We serve neighbors and friends on a “drive thru” format. Food is priced at \$10.00 for up to 60 pounds. This is an excellent way to re-distribute tons of surplus food that might otherwise end up in the landfill.

Primavera Men’s Shelter – We held our Primavera dinner outreach again on February 24th. We had several new volunteers, but where are our experienced volunteers? We need a cooking team for March 23rd and monthly thereafter. If you would like to volunteer, please notify Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office. We cook and

Committee Members Needed – This year, a number of our participants have completed their 3 year assignments on the Church & Society – Missions Committee, so now we are in need of some new members. Our current outreach efforts are well defined for 2024, and our missions budget has been approved. This committee operates more like an ongoing “task force,” so potential committee members might anticipate no more than quarterly update meetings. Are you interested in knowing more?

Please contact Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com.

serve a great five course meal to men living with homelessness and they so appreciate our efforts. This outreach runs on the fourth Saturdays of each month, from approximately 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The menu is planned, and the grocery shopping is done by team leaders. New volunteers are always paired with experienced volunteers. The work involves standing and lifting, cooking, and serving. All volunteers who are vaccinated, gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome.

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen –

Approximately six to seven times throughout the year, Catalina’s missions team cooks and serves our special chicken and vegetable soup recipe for our neighbors living with homelessness and hunger. We served

our excellent chicken vegetable soup to approximately 200 hungry people on February 10th, a rainy Saturday morning. Thanks so much, Rich and Kathy Mayorga, for helping with this event. Our next date to cook and serve is Saturday, April 6th. This is an early morning mission outreach where a team of 3 or 4 volunteers cook and serve more (continued on page 3)

The March-April, 2024 issue of The Upper Room is available for purchase in the office or in the narthex on Sundays. The Daily Devotional Guide is in small pocket guide size for \$1.50 or large print size for \$2.00 each. Our own Doug Wingert wrote the devotion for Easter!

MISSIONS (CONTINUED FROM PG. 2)

than 200 bowls of soup for our neighbors. We start very early, (approximately 6:30 am to 10:30 am). This work involves standing, lifting, cooking, and serving, using large commercial pots in a very small kitchen. All volunteers who are vaccinated, gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome. Please notify Doug Wingert, at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office, if you are interested in volunteering.

Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich Making – Our volunteers love this outreach. This is an opportunity to sit, chat, and fellowship with others while making more than 1,000 pb&j

sandwiches in just a few hours. We have tentatively set Friday afternoon, April 5th for our next sandwich making marathon, subject to the availability of the church kitchen and meeting room. These sandwiches will be delivered to the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen, where they are then added to sack lunches for those living



with hunger. We need about 20 volunteers to help with sandwich making. We will begin at 3:00 pm and will probably be finished by 5:30 pm, depending on the number of volunteers. Please keep this one on your calendar.

Catalina United Methodist Church

Palm Sunday at Catalina featuring

Duruflé's *Requiem*

Sunday, March 24th—10:am

Catalina United Methodist Church
2700 E Speedway, Tucson 85716

Catalina Breakfast Club
Saturday, March 2, 2024
Catalina Methodist Church
Room H 230 9 – 10 a.m.

'Addressing food insecurity by teaching students how to prepare meals at home!'



Steven Cota-Robles
Founder, Executive Director

Volunteers prepping

THE BEST \$4 BREAKFAST PROJECT

The best \$4 breakfast in Tucson
Call 520-327-4296 to reserve



MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Tuesdays at 10 am for in person and Wednesdays at 6pm by Zoom. We start on March 5th and 6th respectively. Please let me know if you are interested by contacting the office.

For Holy Week, the Worship Committee reached out to First UMC to see if we could coordinate with them in planning our worship services. So, First will host a Maundy Thursday service at 5:30 p.m. on March 28th. Catalina will host a Good Friday at 5:30 p.m. on March 29th. Our service will be a Tenebrae service in the Sanctuary. In case you are not familiar with that, Tenebrae is a service of light and shadow. A series of readings are done as candles are extinguished after each reading. We encourage you to attend both services and will provide more details about First's service when we receive them.

Lastly, on Easter Sunday, we will celebrate communion together as we remember and celebrate the resurrection. Easter is also one of the Sundays where we make envelopes available for those who wish to participate in extra-mile giving to help fund the church's ministries.

I hope our plans help you experience the presence of God in your lives and deepen your faith. We are a resurrection people with whom God continually makes a way when we see



March 24 – Palm Sunday – "Durufle's Requiem"

10am Service at Catalina UMC

March 28 – Maundy Thursday

5:30pm Service at First United Methodist Church

915 E 4th St, Tucson 85719

March 29 – Good Friday

7pm Service at Catalina UMC

March 31 – Easter

10am Service at Catalina UMC

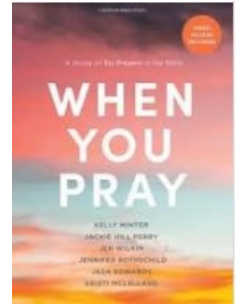
Catalina UMC church office is open M-Th, 10am—3pm.

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

NEXT WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS APRIL 10

Our next study will be **When You Pray** by Kelly Minter along with five other authors. The study guide includes video access and is available on Amazon and Christianbook.com. We will begin on Wednesday, April 10th for a six-week study.

We will meet in room H230 from 9:30 to 11:30am. Hope you will join us. Please contact Brenda Halferty for more information and to register: email bjhalferty@gmail.com or call 520-481-6993.



UMC GENERAL CONFERENCE IN CHARLOTTE, NC

The Commission on the General Conference announced that the 2024 United Methodist General Conference will be held April 23 – May 3, 2024, at [Charlotte Convention Center](#) in Charlotte, North Carolina.



“The Commission selected Charlotte as the site that best met our varied needs. We believe that delegates and attendees will be pleased with all the city has to offer,” said Kim Simpson, Chair of the Commission on the General Conference. “In making the selection, Simpson said that the Commission looked at the suitability and capacity of meeting facilities, availability of adequate space, the proximity of hotel rooms, accessibility and convenience of travel and costs of meeting space, lodging, meals and airfare. Proposals from three cities were considered, but ultimately Charlotte was determined to be the best fit.

The last General Conference was set to happen in Minneapolis, Minnesota, until the pandemic made it necessary to postpone the quadrennial legislative event until 2024.

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.

MARCH OBSERVANCE FROM THE MULTICULTURAL GROWTH COMMITTEE

International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade is a United Nations international observance designated in 2007 to be marked on 25 March every year.

International Day of **Remembrance** of the **Victims** of Slavery and the **Transatlantic** **Slave Trade**

March 25 - 2023



The day honors and remembers those who suffered and died because of the transatlantic slave trade, which has been called "the worst violation of human rights in history", in which over 400 years more than 15 million men, women and children were the victims. It was first observed in 2008 with the theme "Breaking the Silence, Lest We Forget". The

theme of 2015 was "Women and Slavery". The International Day also "aims at raising awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today".

2024 Desert Southwest Annual Conference

June 13-16, 2024

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church Ave, Tucson, AZ 85701

www.UMC.ORG/EN

You'll find everything you need to know about the United Methodist Church on this website. Take a look. You'll be surprised!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY BY DEBORAH WILLIAMS

A Palm Sunday picnic is planned for March 24th after the worship service. Sandwiches, chips, drink and cookies will be the menu for \$5.00. All are invited. Yard games will be set up for the children.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be July 8-12 from 8-12 noon. We will use the Grow Curriculum. The title is "I Wonder." Last year we had 11 children in VBS. Invite children you know to attend, maybe we could double the attendance this year!

Join us at Catalina United Methodist Church for a children and family centered worship, dinner, bible story, songs and a craft!

We welcome all families with children of all ages although the program is created for children 8 years old and younger.



SUNDAY, March 10

UMCOR SUNDAY

Responding with
extravagant
grace



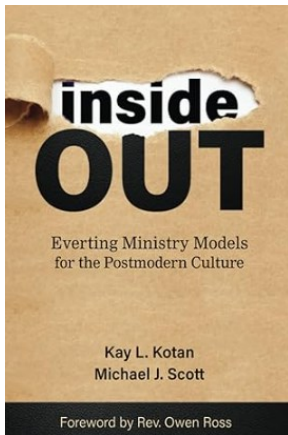
SPECIAL SUNDAY
The National Methodist Church

Moving Away from Sunday Centric Worship

Chapter 1 Summary, Inside Out: Everting Ministry Models for the Postmodern Culture

As I typed those words, I am not even sure what they all mean even after 6 weeks of book study with Pastor Mike, so I'll try to put this into plain English.

Church attendance across denominations is falling to the point of crisis. More and more people identify themselves as Nones when asked for their religious preferences. Kay Kotan and Michael Scott, Methodist ministers involved in church planting, wrote this guide to creating worship and ministries for the 21st century. They encourage churches to turn themselves inside out (evert), to reach out to the unchurched instead of focusing on the inside congregation.



One of the reasons for lower church attendance is that individuals and families have more options on Sundays. When I was growing up in Maryland, attending the local southern Baptist church, we went to Sunday school and church in the morning, had lunch at the Big Boy, then came back to church in the evening for a youth program and another worship service. There were other youth programs, prayer services, and choir practice during the week. Maryland had blue laws which meant most

businesses were closed on Sunday. Sunday was a day of rest and worship. Essential businesses that remained open covered their beer and liquor shelves on Sunday.

Today Sunday is a day for many other activities. People crowd grocery and big box stores. They hang out at coffee shops reading the New York Times or other sites online. Sports on television is nearly 24/7. People play golf and pickleball. Families are engaged in their children's sports leagues, soccer, baseball, basketball, football, swimming, volleyball, and more. What the churches offer for children no longer seems relevant or important today.

The worship community described in Acts 2 "were unified as they worshiped at the temple day after day. In homes, they broke bread and shared meals with glad and generous hearts." How different from the way our Sundays look now.

If the Sunday morning worship is not reaching new people, Kotan and Scott want us to rethink Sunday. They look at Jesus, who spent time at the temple, but also spent most of his time hanging out with people in their everyday lives. The hospitality (continued on page 9)

INSIDE OUT CHAPTER 1 (CONTINUED FROM PG 8)

churches provide on Sunday needs to broaden to other days and times in the week. That would really be welcoming to the unchurched.

Sunday morning worship which is not reaching new people comes at a cost. Consider the money spent on church buildings and grounds, staff, ministry leaders, and the energy of congregations centered on Sunday morning services.

Kotan and Scott recommend churches become relationally centered by doing the following outside of Sunday morning: pray with one another, study the Bible together, share meals, serve together, and worship together.

People in the Bible built altars and worshiped God as the spirit moved them, like Noah after the flood, and the Hebrews after the exodus from Egypt. Jesus taught that God is in all of us. The authors state that God can be met in our homes, at work, in a bar, anywhere at all. Scott and his wife went to a restaurant during one of their church plantings and found a worship experience with the people they met there. Church can happen in our daily life experiences if we are open to being less Sunday centered.



RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR REV. MATT COLBY

Dear Congregation of Catalina United Methodist Church,

The Staff Parish Relations Committee announces the June retirement of Pastor Matt Colby. We have been blessed by his faithful service as Associate Pastor over the last five years. We are grateful for his steadfast commitment to growing us in faith through the COVID Pandemic, 3 Senior Pastors, annual youth mission trips, and many life events for each of us. We will join in a celebration of his 35 years of service in ministry in June.

In the Spirit of God's love,

Diana Hill, SPRC Chairperson



TUCSON FAMILY FOOD PROJECT (TFFP)

The first step in fixing any problem is recognizing that there is one. Everyday approximately 46,000 children in Tucson struggle with food insecurity. This lack of nutrition can go on to affect these children for the rest of their lives...

BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO.



The Tucson Family Food Project is in the process of fundamentally changing the landscape of childhood food insecurity for Tucson's school-aged children through a revolutionary approach.

Every week TFFP teaches kids how to cook a new recipe FOR THEMSELVES using fresh, local, and seasonal produce. They believe that we must try something new to fight this incredibly urgent problem!

Through instructional YouTube videos and easy to follow instructions, The Tucson Family Food Project is giving kids the life skills they need to make food for themselves - giving them their best chance of living a happy and healthy life.

And it all comes together in our kitchen at Catalina UMC! Three days a week, founder Steven Cota-Robles and his wonderful group of volunteers use our kitchen and room E-23

to prepare, assemble and package the food for children struggling with hunger while teaching them a critical life skill to help them break the cycle of food insecurity.

Steven Cota-Robles will be the speaker at this month's Catalina Breakfast Club on Saturday, March 2, 9-10am in Room H-230. Breakfast is \$4 and you can pay at the door. Seating is limited so please RSVP with our office by calling or emailing. 520-327-4296 or office@catalinamethodist.org.

TFFP website: <https://www.thetucsonfamilyfoodproject.org/>



Tucson Road Runners help prepare food packets in our kitchen

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 next study will be **When You Pray** by Kelly Minter along with five other authors. The study guide includes video access and is available on Amazon and Christianbook.com. We will begin on Wednesday, April 10th for a six-week study. We will meet in room H230 from 9:30 to 11:30am. Hope you will join us. Please contact Brenda Halferty for more information and to register. bjhalferty@gmail.com or 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: A timely new study for adults begins Sunday, March 10, 9:00 am in Room E23: "Confronting the Controversies" by Adam Hamilton. Led by Rev. Dr. Kirk Reed, we'll be discussing some of the biggest and most divisive issues in our country today — from a Christian perspective. Everyone is welcome!

TOGETHER TUESDAYS: Mar 5th, 5:30-6:30, Fellowship Hall Join us for a child centered worship titled Noah's Ark.

CATALINA BREAKFAST CLUB: Mar 2nd, 9-10am, H-230 Our next breakfast speaker will be Steven Cota-Robles.

Market On The Move: Mar 16th, 8-10am in the west parking lot. \$10 donation for up to 60 lbs of fresh food! Drive thru!

Reaching New People in New Ways: Saturday, March 16, St. Mark's UMC Sanctuary Campus Is your church struggling to figure out what to do when church attendance and resources are declining? Are you wondering how to reach new people in new ways? Join us! Registrations must be submitted by **March 13, 2024**. A meal will be provided for attendees. Questions should be directed to Lorena Davalos at ldavalos@dscumc.org. If you need registration information ask Pastor Mike.

CATALINA ORGAN FESTIVAL, Fri., Mar. 22, 7pm: Nathan Laube, Professor of Organ at Eastman School of Music will perform. Tickets available on our [website](#) or at the door. (continued on page 12)

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER FOR...

...Howard Steele and family mourning the loss of his wife Marilyn. To view her obit, [click here](#).

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

...our churches: El Mesias UMC Nogales, First UMC Bisbee, First UMC Eloy.

...an end to war, violence and suffering 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 send your request to matt@catalinamethodist.org or just [click here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

2020 General Conference...In 2024! The delayed 2020 United Methodist General Conference will be starting at the end of April 2024. If you are interested in information regarding the Conference you can check out the main page for General Conference at: <https://dscumc.org/annual-conference/>

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries An Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries class is being offered Saturdays, May 4th and 11th at St John's UMC in Tucson (from 9 am to 3 pm both days). Upon registration, more detailed information about the class will be provided. Registration is open at: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>

Info Now Available for 2024 Desert SW UMC Annual Conference: This year's Annual Conference will occur on June 13-16, 2024, at the Tucson Convention Center. Some events will be held here a CUMC. Details about the event and hotel registration will be published soon at <https://dscumc.org/blog/2024/02/20/2024-annual-conference-in-person-and-live-streamed/>

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.