

THE CATALINA NEWSLETTER

2700 E. SPEEDWAY - TUCSON, AZ 85716

WWW.CATALINAMETHODIST.ORG

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I have another short update on the additional service that the Outreach Team and Pastor Kelli will be previewing starting in September. As you may now know, Pastor Kelli and the team will be holding preview services starting September 14th. The

service will start at 6 p.m. Our plan is for Pastor Kelli to primarily be serving as the pastor of these new preview services.

What that will mean is she and I will share different duties on Sundays in September and going forward during the preview season. I will continue to be the pastor leading the 10 a.m. service and be the only pastor leading in the service. Likewise, Pastor Kelli will be the pastor leading the preview services and will be the only pastor in leading in those services. Of course, there will be times when each of us will be in the other service but that will be more occasional.

Part of the reason for this is that it takes a lot of time and energy to start a new service. I want Pastor Kelli to have the freedom to invest herself into the preview season and continue to work with the Outreach Team and staff who will also be working on launching this new thing. As always, I encourage you to pray for all of them.

Something else I wanted to mention is that our annual Charge Conference will be a little later this year. We will have it on November 25th at 7 p.m. I anticipate we will meet in the Fellowship Hall but we will provide details as the date gets closer.

Grow in Faith, Together

Bible study isn't just about learning scripture—it's about building community. When we gather to reflect on God's Word, we also share stories, ask questions, and support one another through life's ups and downs.

Whether you're new to Bible study or a long-time participant, it's a space to connect, be heard, and grow deeper in both faith and friendship.

Come as you are. Bring your curiosity, your thoughts, and your heart. There's a place for you here.



Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 9:30am in Room H230. Our Fall study begins Wednesday, Sept 10 thru Oct 15. It is *Philippians* by Lori Wilhite. Our group is very caring and supportive of each other. We hope you will join us. Contact Brenda Halferty at 520-481-6993 or email bjhalferty@gmail.com

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 6:45am in Room E23. We meet early so we can go to breakfast after the study!



Catalina Unplugged: Previewing Our Second Service

This September, Catalina UMC will begin testing a new style of worship designed to connect with those seeking a different way to encounter God. Our Outreach & Worship Team has been listening carefully to the Spirit and learning about emerging trends to identify new ways of creating space for faith, belonging, and authentic connection.

Why this matters now: Many young adults and Millennials feel the constant pressure of social media, endless screens, and over-scheduled lives. Studies show Gen Z, too, is drawn toward monastic retreats, convents, and “unplugged” spaces to reset from the noise. They long for authenticity, belonging, and a faith that is both rooted in tradition and open to the future. There’s also a growing cultural trend of “Reset Sundays” — young people seeking grounding practices to prepare for the anxiety and demands of the week ahead.

The vision: From this context was born Catalina Unplugged — an evening worship gathering (Sundays, Sept. 14, 21, and 28 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel) that invites us to unplug from devices and distractions, and reconnect with God, ourselves, and one another. This one-hour service will emphasize simplicity, ritual, and flow. Expect accessible music led with piano, guitar, and vocals; scripture paired with brief meditation; and practices drawn from the wisdom of Christian tradition, such as:

- **Ignatian spirituality** — engaging imagination and prayer to enter the story of scripture.
- **Lectio Divina** — listening deeply for God’s word through repeated, reflective scripture reading.
- **The Examen** (Benedictine/Jesuit tradition) — prayerful reflection on where God has been present in our day.

Each service will include Holy Communion as a spiritual meal — grounding us in tradition and feeding us with God’s grace for the journey ahead.

What we hope to learn: “Catalina Unplugged” is not a finished product. These three preview services are meant to help us experiment, listen, and grow. We want your feedback: What gave you meaning? What didn’t connect? What could we try differently? Your insights help shape what comes next.

In October, the Outreach & Worship Team will pivot to listening sessions with young adults and young families to design future worship and programming that meet their needs. We’re also exploring how a new service might connect with those in recovery communities. Please keep this ministry in your prayers. And consider joining us — or inviting someone who might be longing for a different kind of worship space. We don’t know exactly where the Spirit will lead, but we are stepping forward with hope, together.

Making space for all God’s children • Serving our neighbors •
Celebrating life in Christ together • Encouraging one another
• Nurturing spirituality



MISSIONS UPDATE

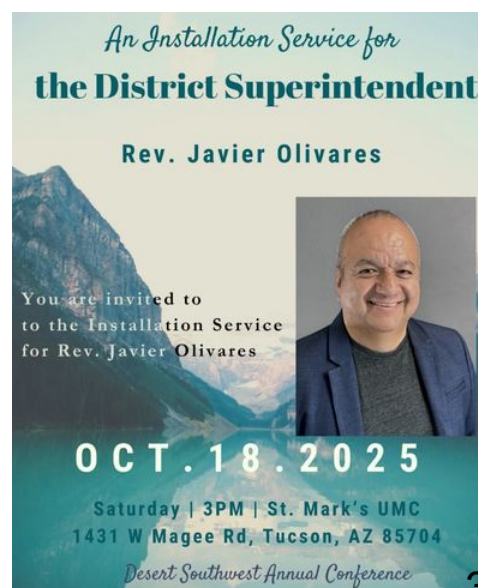
BY DOUG WINGERT, CHAIR

At Catalina United Methodist Church, we work to assist the “poorest of the poor” in our community.

Primavera Men’s Shelter – Our Primavera cooking team served our 5 course dinner to 52 men living with homelessness at the Primavera shelter. However, in order to keep this important outreach going, we are getting somewhat desperate for volunteers. Our regular volunteers want to work side by side with new volunteers to help feed those in need. We really need help filling the **September 27th** date. If you can help on Saturday, September 27th from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, please notify Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office. **(If a four-hour outreach is too much, how about a two-hour shift? We could divide the work from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm).** On the 4th Saturday of every month, we cook and serve a great meal to men living with homelessness. The meals are planned in advance and the grocery shopping is done by team leaders. The work involves standing and lifting, cooking, and serving. All volunteers who are gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome. Who can help us out on **September 27th or in the months to follow** ?

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen – Catalina volunteers served 305 cups of chicken vegetable soup at the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen on Saturday, August 16th. Thank you volunteers!! Our next scheduled outreach at Casa Maria will be on Saturday morning, **October 18th**. Would you like to join a small team of volunteers who cook and serve our excellent chicken-vegetable soup to our hungry neighbors? The work involves standing, lifting, cooking, and serving, using large commercial pots in a very small kitchen. Our volunteers must be gloved, and over the age of 12. Interested in helping us? Notify Doug Wingert, at dougwingert@gmail.com or contact the church office.

Office Snack Packs – Catalina continues to offer snacks and bottled water to our homeless and hungry neighbors. Prior contributions toward this outreach have been exhausted, so we are now funding this important mission effort through your generous donations. If you wish to contribute to our snack pack budget, please designate “snack packs” on your donation.





Children & Family Ministries Report

by Paige Anderson

Children's is back in full swing for the fall! We have Sunday School every Sunday during the 10 am worship. Join us September 9th at 5:30 pm for Together Tuesday at 5:30 in the fellowship hall. This program has free dinner and features a Bible story and a craft for families to learn about God and Jesus together!

Mark your calendars for our Second Trunk or Treat on October 17th! Last year we had over 100 families come so the more trunks the better! We will also start collecting candy in September (we ran out last year!)

Sing Out & Ring Out!



Music is an integral part of worship at Catalina with Sunday worship and Holiday concerts. Our Sanctuary Choir and Festival bellringers are members of our congregation who share a common bond in their love of music. Think you might like to join?



Rehearsals are now back on the calendar!

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses Thursdays at 7pm.

For more info email Mariana@catalinamethodist.org

The Festival Bellringers rehearse Thursdays at 5:30pm.

For more info email Kyle@catalinamethodist.org



South District Offers Introduction to Lay Ministry Classes

This is an introductory course for Lay Servant Ministries and is foundational for all courses in Lay Servant Ministries. It is an overview of the program and concentrates on the importance of three (3) areas: Leading, Caring, and Communicating (the pillars or core ministries of lay servant ministries).

One class will be in Tucson (in person) on Saturdays, September 27 and October 4. It will be held at St John's UMC. Another class will be at Willcox UMC on Saturdays, October 4 and 11.

These classes, as well as all classes (Intro and Advanced offered conference wide for this Fall) are available for registration on the Conference website and can be accessed by copying and pasting the following link into your browser: <https://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries-training-sessions/>

Reconciling Ministries Update by Revs. Susan Morgan & Mary Klaehn



“Uncharted: Becoming the Church we Need Right Now” was the theme of the most recent Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) Convocation held at First UMC in Madison, Wisconsin. My wife,

Mary, and I joined over 200 other Reconciling United Methodists from all U.S. Jurisdictions and several countries for four days of inspiring speakers and preachers, informative panels, transformational worship and music, enthusiastic networking, and lots of joy. Among the rich array of workshops offered were “Trauma-Aware Leadership for Tender Times,” “Trans Advocacy Panel,” “Antiracism Discipleship: An Intentional Discipleship Pathway in the Face of Systemic Racism,” “Immigration Justice & Congregational Care,” “Intersecting Eco-Spirituality and Queer Liberation in Worship,” “Vile-tality: Our Lineage of Rule-Benders, Rabble-Rousers, and Outcast-Embracers,” and more. There were many opportunities to learn. Did you know that there are two Reconciling Churches in Kenya? Did you know that there is a group called Apple Tree that supports Korean LGBTQ+ and allies? Did you know that RMN has a Vacation Bible School curriculum?

The Convocation honored the saints who contributed to the RMN movement and who have passed since the last gathering. Our own Paul Newhouse was remembered In memoriam.

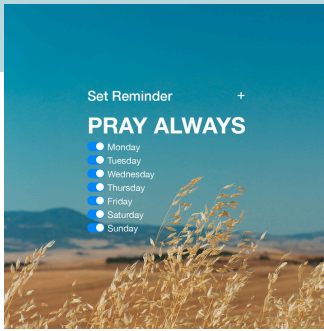
The gathered community celebrated the 2024 General Conference removal of the policies and language that had sanctioned discrimination against LGBTQ+ people. We celebrated the countless Reconciling United Methodists, individuals and churches, who worked for 50 years toward that moment. There is so much reason to celebrate, and now we find ourselves in uncharted territory in the UMC, as we learn what it means to be the church in this moment and for the future.



We lamented that even with this historic change, we the church still have much to do to practice being fully welcoming in our human diversity. We acknowledged that there is much injustice for us to confront in the reconciling movement and in the UMC, in our churches, related to racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, classism, ageism, heterosexism, colonialism, the many human-created systems that keep us separate from one another, that prevent people from wholeness of life, and deny full access to God’s Love in community. We listened to people’s stories of intersectionality, the layers of isms that people experience in living, beloved human bodies.

The Convocation issued a call to Reconciling Churches – Catalina! – to deepen our commitment to what it means to be Reconciling in our everchanging and troubled world; to take seriously our baptismal covenant to “resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves”; to do what Jesus did in always siding with those who are marginalized and kept from wholeness of life. Our founder John Wesley taught, “I want you to be all love; that is the perfection I seek.” The Reconciling Ministries Network is a resource for us here in Tucson as we deepen and continue our holy work. Maybe a group from Catalina will attend the next biennial Convocation!

Please Be In Prayer For...



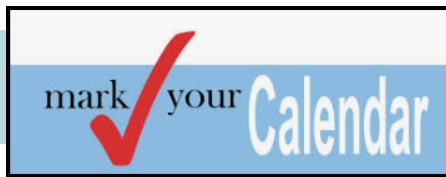
Catalina has an active prayer team, Prayer Partners, praying for YOU throughout the year. If you would like to add a special prayer request, please send it to office@catalinamethodist.org and we will publish it here!

Please be in prayer for:

- Jean Briggs who is in hospice care.
- Chin Yung who wishes to live the life that God, the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost has graced him with every day.
- Janet Williams who has had recent surgery on her wrist and her daughter Amber who will also be having surgery this week..
- St. James, St. John's and St. Mark's UMCs of Tucson
- Peace. Love. Prayer. Always.

Need a Visitation?

If you, or someone you know, would like a visitation from our Deaconess, Toni Smith, please contact her at toni@catalinamethodist.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

Seekers Adult Sunday School Class @ 8:45am – 9:45am in Room H230

A desire to enrich your understanding and faith is the only requirement. Join us for a variety of video-based lessons led by volunteer class members. For lesson schedule go to <https://www.catalinamethodist.org/adults/>.

Koinonia Class for Adults: Sundays @ 9am in Room E-23

"How to Fight Racism" - Every Sunday in September; Facilitators: Pastor Kelli Knight and Rev. Kirk Reed All adults of all ages are invited! For more info, contact Rev. Kirk Reed wkirkreed@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 9:30, Room H230

Our Fall study begins Wednesday, Sept 10 through Oct 15. It is Philippians by Lori Wilhite. Contact Brenda Halferty at 520-481-6993 or email bjhalferty@gmail.com

Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 6:45am, Room E23

Bible study, Brotherhood, and Breakfast! We gather for breakfast at 8am after studying! Join our Men's Bible Study each week.

Catalina Breakfast Forum: Saturday, Sept. 6 @ 9am in Fellowship Hall

"Water Provision & Management in Tucson and Arizona" is the topic for our first guest speaker of the season: Sharon B. Megdal, Director, Water Resources Research Ctr., U of A. We're still the best \$4 breakfast in Tucson. Please RSVP to the office at 520-327-4296 so we know how much food to prepare!

Also of Note:

www.UMC.ORG/EN

Want to know more about the United Methodist Church? You'll find it on the website link shown above. Take a look--you'll be surprised!

Catalina Cares - E-news Weekly

Are you on the email list? If not, go to: <https://www.catalinamethodist.org/newsletter/> and fill out the form at the bottom of the page. We'll add you to the list and you can stay "In the Know!" every Thursday afternoon!

Monthly Bible Verses

You can find them at: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/> If you would like a copy in print, please contact the office.

Catalina Loves Music

If you love music too, consider joining our Sanctuary Choir which rehearses Thursdays @ 7pm in the Choir Room, or if you can read music, join our bell ringers on Thursdays @ 5:30pm. Mariana@catalinamethodist.org for more info.

The Upper Room On-line

If you love the Upper Room daily devotionals in print, you're going to love them on-line! Just go to: <https://www.upperroom.org/>

Church Office Hours

The office is open Monday-Thursday, 10am to 3pm.
Email: office@catalinamethodist.org Phone: 520-327-4296

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!

