



THE CATALINA NEWSLETTER

2700 E. SPEEDWAY - TUCSON, AZ 85716

WWW.CATALINAMETHODIST.ORG

October, 2025

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Upcoming Church Conferences

I just want to take the time to update the church on some upcoming church conferences happening in October and then in November. The first is on Sunday, October 12th at 11:30 a.m. (following our worship service). We spent some time in September having presentations on a Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS) for our church governance. I want to thank those who came to the presentations. We wanted those who were interested to be able to find out what the SAS can do for our church.

We did those presentations in anticipation of the October 12th meeting. It is at this meeting that we will take a vote on whether or not to adopt a Simplified Accountable Structure. Scott Campbell has provided a summary of what SAS is elsewhere in the newsletter. Please take a look if you were not able to make one of the presentations. Additionally, I have a recording of one of the sessions I can make available. Let me know if you are interested. Also, as a reminder, a church conference is where all church members can vote. The meeting itself is open to all and so all are invited to attend.

At those September presentations, we passed out interest forms for people who might be interested in joining the leadership board—if approved on October 12th. If you would like to be considered for a position on the board, please turn in a form to me or email me and I can send a form to you. The leadership board members will be selected differently than how we do nominations normally. We will hold interviews based on the interest forms and the nominations team will make the final selection after the interviews. This is all a part of the changes that are associated with the Simplified Accountable Structure.

Lastly, we will have our annual church conference on November 25th at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This is the meeting where we share goals for the upcoming year, approve clergy salaries, hear from our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Javier Olivares, among other items. Likewise, all are invited to attend and all church members are considered voting members. I hope to see you there!

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.

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!





Celebrating Our First Preview and Lessons We're Learning

In September, we stepped out in faith together — and what a month it's been! When the Outreach & Worship Team first gathered in July, we sensed God calling us to imagine what worship might look like for those who long for something different: a place to reconnect with God, find belonging, and experience the sacred in a simpler, slower way.

In less than two months, this team dreamed, planned, and launched Catalina Unplugged. These three preview services were beautiful. We saw the chapel glow at sunset, shared the Lord's Table each week, welcomed 5 new faces, and 3 who returned to Catalina after time away. Across the three Sundays, we averaged about 30 people each week, plus six children on two of the evenings. We gathered around music, prayer, and Scripture — and each week we learned something that will help us shape the future of a second service.

This first preview would not have been possible without the Outreach & Worship Team's vision, wisdom, talent, and dedication. Meeting every week, they attended every detail: welcoming greeters, preparing bulletins and liturgy, rehearsing music, setting up audio-visual, arranging communion, and the dozens of small things that make worship feel warm and prayerful. Paige and Anthony also offered a low-key but engaging space for children, and we were delighted to have six kids join us on two of the three Sundays.

We also want to thank everyone who attended these preview services. You were our true partners in this first preview — helping us navigate what worked well and what could be improved. Your honest feedback about what you loved, what felt meaningful, and even what didn't quite connect has been invaluable. It guided us through these first steps and will continue to shape our discernment moving forward.

We received enthusiastic feedback for offering this style of worship again in the future — many suggested holding it at least twice a month, perhaps even weekly. Several proposed a Sunday 5:00 p.m. start time to better fit family schedules and the shorter daylight hours of fall and winter. We're so grateful for the support of the whole church as we explore new ways to reach our community!

Many of you have asked thoughtful questions about Unplugged and what's next. Here are a few I'd like to respond to:

Who is this second service for? Everyone is welcome. We especially hope to reach those who are spiritually curious but not currently connected to a church, as well as young adults — including Millennial parents — who are seeking a theologically progressive, inclusive community and a welcoming place to raise their children.

Is this an LGBTQ+ service? Not exclusively. Just like our 10 a.m. traditional service, Unplugged and future previews reflect Catalina's deep commitment to being intentionally inclusive and celebratory of all people — in worship, programs, and leadership.

How does a second service serve such a diverse community? One of the gifts of the church is that worship brings us together across generations, identities, families, and beliefs. While smaller groups like Bible studies or service projects can focus on particular interests or ages, worship gathers us as one diverse body in Christ.

Why haven't we advertised yet? We want first-time visitors to have the best experience possible. Previews like Catalina Unplugged allow us to experiment with music, sermon length, prayer styles, and other details — and to receive honest feedback from people who understood we were testing things out. Before we launch publicly, we want to refine what we've learned so that newcomers feel welcomed right from the start.

What's next? The Outreach & Worship Team will spend October discerning what's next. We may offer Unplugged again, explore a discussion-based gathering, or a family-focused evening. Our hope is to launch a regular second worship opportunity in February, around Lent, with a full communication campaign that includes social media, local advertising, and community outreach.

Friends, we celebrate what God has already done among us — and the ways the Spirit continues to lead us forward. Thank you for your prayers, your presence, and your openness to trying something new!

With gratitude and hope, Pastor Kelli

Congregational Update on Adoption of the Simplified Accountable Structure for Church Governance

Last year Catalina UMC adopted the following goal for 2025:

Explore the adoption and implementation of the simplified accountable structure (SAS). We will work with a certified SAS consultant that will lead us through a 12-step process which begins with a Discernment Phase to explore the model with the congregation to determine if this is right for Catalina UMC.

The Discernment Team has finished their work and completed presentations to the congregation. We provided two sessions after Sunday church services and 2 via zoom, with one of them being a deep dive presentation from our District SAS coach Christopher Wurpts. About 40 church members engaged in these presentations. We received good and thoughtful discussion and feedback. It is the Discernment Team's opinion that once attendees understood the process and how it was intended to work, they were very supportive of Catalina adopting this model of church governance.

I am excited to inform you that the Catalina UMC Church Council has unanimously agreed that Catalina should move forward with a Charge Conference on Sunday Oct-12 at 11:30 am in the sanctuary to vote on adopting the SAS governance model.

If you still have questions or want to discuss further, the Catalina Discernment Team is available to have a discussion with you. Please reach out to whom you prefer.

Scott Campbell - ronaldscott.campbell@gmail.com

Jim Gill - j4rgill@comcast.net

Jeanne Manning - jmanning30@cox.net

Emily Mason - emily.mason@comcast.net

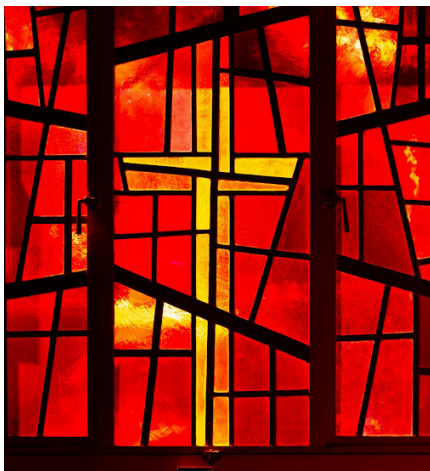
Rickey Williams - rlwdn@cox.net

Doug Wingert - dougwingert@gmail.com

Pastor Mike - mike@catalinamethodist.org

We hope that you can attend so we have a good turnout on **Oct-12** for this important decision for Catalina UMC.

Your humble servant in Christ,
Scott Campbell
Church Council Chair



- 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.

We have just a few activities to report this month, but it looks like we will be quite busy in the 4th quarter. As usual, the work is plentiful, but the workers are scarce. We are always looking for new volunteers.

Primavera Men’s Shelter – We successfully held our August 23rd outreach at Primavera and look forward to our next dinner outreach on Saturday, September 27th. We have our cooking team ready to work, but we still need volunteers in October and November. Meals are planned in advance and grocery shopping is done by team leaders. New volunteers are always paired with experienced volunteers. If you can help on **Saturday, October 25th or November 22nd 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). This outreach is scheduled for the 4th Saturdays of every month. We cook and serve a great meal to men living with homelessness. The work involves standing and lifting, cooking, and serving. All volunteers who are gloved, and over the age of 12 are welcome.

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen – Our small team of volunteers met very early on August 16th at Casa Maria, where we cooked and served more than 300 servings of soup to our neighbors living with homelessness and hunger. Our next opportunity to cook and serve will be on **Saturday, October 18th, at 6:30 am**. (Even 7:00 am would work!) Would you like to join a small team of volunteers who cook and serve our excellent chicken-vegetable soup to about 250 of 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? 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.

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Making Marathon – Due to some mitigating health concerns, our missions team was unable to schedule a sandwich making event in September. But keep your calendars open for a Friday afternoon in early December. We will need about 20 volunteers to make more than 500 sandwiches for those in Tucson living with hunger. Stand-by for more information to follow in coming weeks.

Angel Tree – More information will follow in the coming weeks regarding our annual Christmas efforts to collect toys and clothing as Christmas gifts for children whose parents or guardians are incarcerated in the Arizona Prison system.

VOLUNTEERS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED! CONTACT DOUGWINGERT@GMAIL.COM



“If you can’t feed a hundred people,
then feed just one.” --Mother Teresa



Why Missions?

by Doug Wingert, Chair Church Society & Missions Team

Each day *The Upper Room* magazine publishes meditations, submitted by Christians from all over the world. Often these meditations give the reader a warm heart or at least something to think about. But every once in a while, a meditation has even more impact.

Recently a Christian in southeast Asia wrote a compelling meditation. His story reminded me that our church, Catalina United Methodist Church, is blessed with a beautiful campus, visible to thousands of people who drive through the heart of Tucson each day. Catalina is situated near the University of Arizona and surrounded by a large park, a library, and many fine homes. And yet . . . we still encounter God's children who are suffering from homelessness and hunger and health issues and loneliness. Do we really encounter them, or are they often overlooked because it's just too uncomfortable or inconvenient to see them?

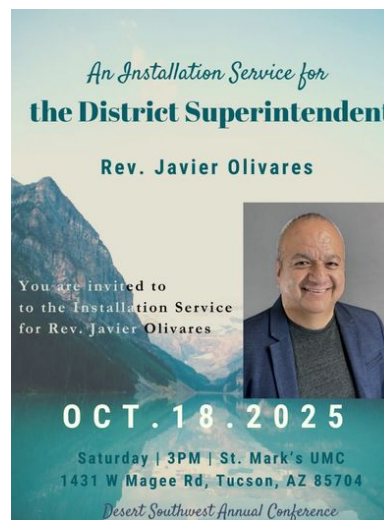
This writer in *The Upper Room* magazine brings us a simple truth; "when we serve those in need, we serve Christ Himself." Simple, but profound! The writer reminds us that "Jesus urges us to look beyond ourselves and our worries. He invites us to see the people who most need hope and healing, both inside and outside our church. Jesus is waiting for us in the widow's tears, in the father's trembling hands, and in the child's hungry cry." And yes, in Tucson, Arizona, this also includes those whose vision and reason are clouded by addictions.

The writer states, "serving the poor and wounded in our community is our highest calling as Christians; it is how we express Christ's love. We may not impress the world with our money or status, but we can offer God's presence through our simple acts of service."

When this writer closes in prayer, he prays: "God, open our eyes to see You in the faces of those who are forgotten and hurting. Lead us to live out Christ's love through simple acts of compassion." Amen! (By the way, Catalina's Missions Team is always looking for volunteers. Can you help? Contact Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com).



www.UpperRoom.org



The ones who
have a voice must
speak for those
who are voiceless.
--Oscar Romero



October Observances & Events

By Ken Batty

LGBTQ+ History Month is an annual month-long observance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, and the history of the gay rights and related civil rights movements. It was founded in 1994 by Missouri high-school history teacher Rodney Wilson. This year's focus is on "31 Icons" from these communities, celebrating their achievements, contributions and stature.

Among those 31 Icons are many you would recognize, either by name or by their achievement. Unfortunately, there are also many that most of us could not readily identify; so we should all take the time visit the LGBTQ+ History website and read the entire list. Here is a selection of those icons. See which ones you know and take the time to learn about those you don't.

Becca Balint – Congressperson
Samuel Barber - Composer
Andy Cohen – TV Producer and personality
Colman Domingo – Actor and playwright
Billie Eilish – Music superstar
Jeffrey Gibson – Indigenous artist and sculptor
Nikki Giovanni – Poet and author
Lily Gladstone – Indigenous actor
Mel Heifetz - Philanthropist
Karl Lagerfeld – Fashion designer
Sarah McBride – First Trans Congressperson
T. J. Osborne - Country Rock star
Ann Philbin – Museum director
Ocean Vuong – Poet and author
Abby Wambach – Soccer star
Lanford Wilson – Pulitzer-winning playwright

Field Trip!

Come one, come all. The Multicultural Growth Committee has organized a field trip to the Tucson Meet Yourself Folklife Festival on Saturday, October 18. Please meet our group at 10:30 a.m., at Catalina UMC East Parking Lot (corner of Treat and 1st St.) to carpool to the festival downtown at the Jacome Plaza, 101 N. Stone Avenue. We'll enjoy food, music, dance, and cultural traditions from a variety of groups. Bring your partner or spouse; bring your family. But make sure to be prepared! Bring a bottle of water, a hat, sunscreen, and, if you wish, a chair. For more information, please call or text Kendall Klym at 308-562-0096 or Kirk Reed (520) 561-0285. Check out the festival website at www.tucsonmeetyourself.org. Hope to see you there!

Dia de los Muertos

There will be a Dia de los Muertos remembrance on Saturday, November 1 from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Catalina UMC. We will be assembling an altar to include pictures or small tokens of remembrance for loved ones who have passed away. We will conduct a short prayer service followed by tasty desserts. Feel free to bring your treasured remembrances and your favorite dessert to share. Questions? Please call Blythe Strong (520) 904-5645 or Kirk Reed (520) 561-0285.



It's Not Too Early!

IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO plan for Angel Tree 2025!

Catalina has participated in the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree project for over 20 years. Our congregation generously purchases Christmas gifts (2 per child) for children whose parent is in prison. We will again have 50 children, which means 100 gifts will be purchased in December.

Angel Tree starts with the step of making phone calls to the caregivers of the children. **This happens in late October.** If you would like to make some of these phone calls, please contact Judy Wingert - 520-909-4404 or judywingert@gmail.com to volunteer. You will be given all of the necessary contact information and your phone call will get us specific gift requests for each child. It's a fun step, and the caregivers are very appreciative.

The next step will be in **early Nov.** to meet at church to write out the Angel Tags for each child with the gift request on it. (Date to be determined.) We hang the angel tags on the Christmas tree in mid November and members of the congregation choose a tag and then shop! There are more steps to follow, so stay tuned.



CUMC Foundation News

Catalina has had the Catalina United Methodist Foundation since 1958. Generous donors over the decades have given to the Foundation to provide general and specific program support, building maintenance and scholarships. A recent donation from the Ash and Barbara Silverburg family provided the funding to remodel the sanctuary to be more conducive to all types of mobility, as well as adding our new Welcome Center. Recent church support includes: replacing the Day School and Fellowship Hall mission tile roofs! Not an easy task for sure. In 2025 the year-to-date support to the church has been \$297,178.00. This includes over \$8,000 in scholarships to several ministerial students in our Desert Southwest Conference as well to support continuing education for several of our church members. The Foundation needs to grow in order to continue these valuable contributions to our church.

Please consider including the CUMC Foundation in your estate planning, as well as in your giving. Together we can keep the Foundation strong and keep the church keeping on. If you would like more information please contact Judy Wingert, President of the Foundation Board. 520-909-4404 judywingert@gmail.com. Current Foundation Board members are: Rebeca Gill, VP, David Pingry, Secretary, Cori Hoag, Treasurer, and members: Tim Mason, Tom Campbell, Bruce Gillaspie, Kyle Hood, Tom Strong, and Pastor Mike.

Money may seem like a small or ordinary thing, but when it is
given in love, it becomes lasting treasure...
helping to build the future of Catalina UMC.



Catalina UMC Day School Report

by Carolyn Lovell, Executive Director

The Day School currently has an enrollment of 81 children, though with two staff children counted, the true enrollment is 79. While our toddler classrooms remain full and even require an expansion into C12, enrollment continues to lag in the 3's and two of the Pre-K classrooms, creating financial strain. Due to these challenges, one Assistant Educator position was eliminated, and most full-time staff were reduced to part-time hours, which has been difficult for them. Despite these struggles, we continue to celebrate our dedicated team: Ms. Tammie (Pre-K) marked 6 years, Ms. Dejah (Older Ones) 2 years, and Ms. Susan (Cook) an incredible 19 years of service.

To boost visibility and enrollment, the Day School is actively seeking grant opportunities, publishing outreach articles such as one in the Sam Hughes Neighborhood Newsletter and maintaining weekly Facebook updates to highlight classroom activities. Parents have been encouraged to spread the word, and community engagement remains strong.

Highlights this fall include chapel lessons on Leadership and Friendship, a joyful visit from Mr. Nature Music Garden. Our Meet the Teacher Night on September 18th brought in 26 families, allowing parents to tour classrooms, connect with teachers, and explore volunteer opportunities—special thanks to Pastor Mike for attending and representing the church.

We are excited to share that Catalina United Methodist Day School is now part of Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards Program! This is a simple way to support Catalina while you shop—at no extra cost to you. Once you link your Fry's Shopper's Card to our school, Catalina will automatically earn rewards every time you shop.

Here's how to join (it only takes a minute!):

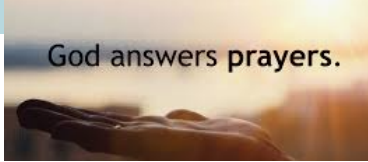
- Create a digital account at Fry's (or log in if you already have one).
- Link your Fry's Shopper's Card to your account.
- Search for Catalina United Methodist Day School or enter our code RC367.
- Click Save.

That's it! Catalina will then appear in your Fry's Community Rewards account, and every swipe of your card helps our school.



For more than 50 years, Catalina United Methodist Day School has been a trusted Tucson institution, offering children creative, stimulating experiences that nurture a positive self-image and inspire them to explore the world in a safe and caring environment.

Please Be In Prayer For...



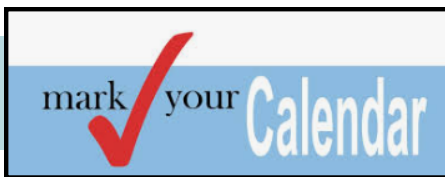
Catalina has an active prayer team, Prayer Partners, praying for YOU throughout the year. If you would like to add a special prayer request, please send it to office@catalinamethodist and we will publish it here!

Please be in prayer for:

- St. Paul's UMC, Tucson; Trinity UMC, Bisbee; Vista de la Montana UMC, 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

AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD: A GEOGRAPHY OF FAITH begins Sunday morning, October 5, 9:00 am in Room E23. Led by Rev. Kirk Reed, this lively class and discussion group reads one chapter each week of an excellent and thought-provoking book. Books are available from Rev. Reed. Adults of all ages can enjoy learning together! For more info: 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, October 4, 9am in Fellowship Hall

"Chat GPT AI & 16 Other Flavors of Artificial Intelligence" presented by Alex Dely, Adjunct faculty UofA College of Engineering will present "Facts and Fiction – A current Reality Perspective. \$4/person donation requested at the door. Please RSVP to 520-327-4296.

Church Conference: October 12, 2025 @ 11:30, in the Sanctuary

The purpose of the meeting is to make a decision about whether to move from our current governance structure and instead adopt a Simplified Accountable Structure (SAS). Hopefully, you have had a chance to attend one of the presentations about SAS. If not, there will be a write-up in the October Newsletter. Or, you can contact Pastor Mike to be able to view a recorded session of one of the SAS presentations.

Continue on next page

UPCOMING EVENTS continued

United Women in Faith: Tuesday, October 14, 9:30am in Room H230

Mark your calendar for our first meeting, scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, starting on October 14, 2025, at 9:30 am. We'd love you to join us and bring a friend! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deaconess Toni Smith at toni@catalinamethodist.org

Together Tuesdays: Tuesday, October 14, 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Join us October 14th 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!

Trunk or Treat: Friday, October 17, 5-6pm in the West Parking Lot

Mark your calendars for our Second Trunk or Treat! Set-up will begin at 4:30pm. Last year we had over 100 families come, so the more trunks the better! We are collecting candy all of September (we ran out last year!)

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

**HELP US GET THE WORD OUT: FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!
REVIEW US ON GOOGLE!**

