



# THE CATALINA NEWSLETTER

2700 E. SPEEDWAY - TUCSON, AZ 85716

WWW.CATALINAMETHODIST.ORG

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## *Catalina Collective: Creating New Pathways for Worship and Connection*

Over the past several months, the Outreach and Worship Team has been engaged in an intentional season of listening, learning, and experimenting. From September through December, we piloted several different worship styles—at different times, in different locations—to explore what additional opportunities for gathering might feel authentic and life-giving for Catalina United Methodist Church.

At present, most of our communal worship life centers on our traditional service Sunday morning. And while that service continues to be vibrant and meaningful, we also recognize that many people—especially those we are seeking to reach—may be looking for something less formal and traditional. Just as importantly, we know that faithful innovation requires testing, patience, and discernment. Rather than rushing to launch something new, we began in-house, piloting ideas with our own community first to see what resonated and what felt organically “Catalina.”

Those fall pilots were intentionally not heavily advertised beyond our congregation. That allowed us to build comfort, learn from one another, and identify what styles of worship might naturally grow from who we already are. Now, after that initial season of learning, we are ready to take the next step: establishing a regular rhythm and beginning to share these offerings more openly around Tucson.

### **Introducing Catalina Collective**

In this spirit, we are naming this season Catalina Collective — a ministry of Catalina UMC. Under this umbrella, we will be offering three distinct worship experiences through the spring, with a commitment to evaluate, adapt, and pivot as we learn.

### ***Open Table***

Our biggest surprise pilot of the fall was Open Table, a dinner-church experience centered on shared meals, simple liturgy, and guided conversation.

- Begins: Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ 5:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- Schedule: 3rd Wednesdays of the month (Feb 18, March 18, April 15, May 20)

Open Table is designed for those seeking a midweek, non-traditional worship experience rooted in hospitality and connection. Building relationships around a shared meal proved deeply meaningful during the pilot season—especially for families and children, who thrived in this relaxed, intergenerational setting.

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### Catalina Unplugged

Responding to a growing desire for reflective, contemplative worship, Catalina Unplugged offers a candlelit, acoustic, and meditative experience.

- Begins: Sunday, February 22 @ 5:00pm, Chapel
- Schedule: 2nd and 4th Sundays (Feb 22; March: 8, 22; April: 12, 26; May: 10, 24)

This Sunday evening option is especially designed for those looking for a spiritual “reset” before the week ahead—a rhythm we learned is common among young adults and spiritually curious seekers.

### Chapel Connections

Because many people still expect a Sunday morning entry point into church life, we will also offer Chapel Connections, a blended, more casual worship service that bridges traditional and contemporary styles.

- Begins: Sunday, March 1 @ 10:00am, Chapel
- Schedule: 1st and 3rd Sundays (March: 1, 15 April: 19 May: 3, 17)

A few dates to note:

- March 29 (Fifth Sunday / Palm Sunday): One joint traditional worship service
- April 5 (Easter Sunday): One traditional service at 10:00 a.m. in the main sanctuary

I also plan to be present at the traditional service on second and fourth Sundays. I miss many of you when I’m not there, and I look forward to worshipping together while also helping our congregation navigate this new rhythm.

### What to Expect This Spring

Our commitment is to offer these worship options consistently through May, giving our community time to settle into the rhythm. We know this season may feel a bit complex at first—but with regularity comes familiarity.

### Why Multiple Worship Options?

A natural question is: Why offer multiple worship services? The answer is simple and grounded in our mission. Just as we tested different styles internally, we now need to test them more publicly to see what connects with people beyond our walls—especially those seeking a faith community for the first time or returning after time away.

At a training workshop last October, our Outreach and Worship Team gathered with other forward-thinking, growing Methodist ministries. One key insight stood out: healthy, outward-focused churches create multiple access points for people to connect. Most younger adults and families are not looking for another Sunday morning obligation; many are drawn instead to midweek gatherings, Sunday evening “resets,” or worship that feels relational, relational, and embodied in community.

### How You Can Help

- Pray — for this next season of experimentation, for the people we haven’t met yet, and for the new things God is already stirring.
- Spread the word — invitations matter more than advertisements.
- Volunteer — Open Table needs 8 table hosts per month. Hosts welcome guests, facilitate pre-planned discussion questions, and help create a spirit of hospitality. Training and support will be provided. We could also use help with meal planning and meal prep. If you’re interested, please email me [kelli@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:kelli@catalinamethodist.org)

I am deeply proud of Catalina UMC for continuing to live into God’s dream for this church—to be a place of belonging, curiosity, healing, and hope for those seeking a new church home. Thank you for your trust, your flexibility, and your faithful support as we take these next steps together.



## MISSIONS UPDATE

BY DOUG WINGERT, CHAIR

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

**Lotsa Pasta Food Drive** – It’s back!! The annual Interfaith Community Services, (ICS) pasta food drive will run throughout the month of February. Catalina will, once again, participate by putting collection bins in the Sanctuary narthex and in the church office to collect your pasta, macaroni and cheese, and pasta sauces, (in plastic jars or cans only. No glass please). Last February we collected 185 food items. Can we beat that number?

**Primavera Men’s Shelter** – On January 24th, our Primavera cooking team served our five-course dinner to approximately 60 men living at the Primavera shelter. We were blessed with two new volunteers, who provided excellent kitchen skills to make this dinner come together smoothly and on time. We will be cooking and serving again on **Saturday, February 28th**. Who can help us out? We need four volunteers for the February 28th date. If you can help on that date, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm, please notify Doug Wingert at [dougwingert@gmail.com](mailto: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).* 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. If the February 28th date does not work for you, we will be cooking and serving at the Primavera Men’s Shelter on the fourth Saturday of every month in 2026. Mark your calendars. We need volunteers.

**Casa Maria Soup Kitchen** – Catalina volunteers typically serve approximately 350 cups of chicken vegetable soup, made from scratch, at the Casa Maria Soup Kitchen. This provides a hot meal for so many people living with homelessness and hunger. We have been assigned some early dates this year, both Saturday, January 31st and February 7th. We have cooking teams for those dates, but next up will be **March 7th**. Cooking teams get to work early on Saturday mornings, (6:30 am – 7:00 am), and the work involves standing and cooking in a very small kitchen for about 3 to 4 hours. We need three volunteers for March 7th. Please contact Doug Wingert at [dougwingert@gmail.com](mailto:dougwingert@gmail.com) if you are interested in helping on **March 7th** or future Saturday dates.

**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.

**Other News** – Would you like to help plan our mission outreach events by participating in Catalina’s mission outreach efforts? The need is great, but the workers are few. Please let the office know if you have an interest in being part of the Church & Society - Missions Team. Email: [DougWingert@gmail.com](mailto:DougWingert@gmail.com)



## Can We Do It Again?

February is the time for our annual participation in the Interfaith Community Services (ICS) "Lotsa Pasta" food drive. We will be collecting all types of pasta, macaroni & cheese, and pasta sauces (in cans or plastic only, no glass). Last year our Catalina people were very generous, making hundreds of these food donations. Can we do it again? We will have collection bins in the Sanctuary narthex and in the church office throughout the month of February.



## February Observances

By Kent Batty, Multicultural Committee

In 2007 the United Nations established February 20th as the **World Day of Social Justice**, recognizing the need to promote social justice, which includes efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion, gender inequality, unemployment, human rights, and social protections. While primarily focused on governmental and agency roles and activities, it should also remind us of the needs our own communities should be trying to address more locally. This year's theme, framed by the UN to address systemic inequality and advance social justice, is "Empowering Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for Social Justice" and focuses on inclusive policies and social protections.

**Black History Month** starts on February 1st, with the theme, "A Century of Black History Commemorations." The following summary is taken from the website of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH).

2026 marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, George Cleveland Hall, William B. Hartgrove, Jesse E. Moorland, Alexander L. Jackson, and James E. Stamps institutionalized the teaching, study, dissemination, and commemoration of Black history when they founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) on September 9, 1915.

In 1925, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson planned the inaugural week-long observance of Black history, he could hardly have anticipated the imprint he would leave on the world. From Negro History Week to Black History Month, ASALH has carried forth the tradition, and the observances have become part of the warp and weft of American culture and increasingly the global community. For our 100th theme, the founders of Black History Month urge us to explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the modern world.



"All you need is love.  
But a little chocolate now and then  
doesn't hurt." -- Charles M. Schulz





## 2025 CUMC Foundation Update

by Judy Wingert, President, Foundation Board

We are so fortunate to have our Foundation. Thanks to all who contribute currently and thank you to all since 1958 for the generosity and fiduciary care over the decades. Although our current balance in the Foundation is a generous one, we are currently spending more than we are earning. The grand total of Foundation monies spent in 2025 was \$513,293.09. The main categories were operating budget, program and property, Trustees, and the 5 restroom remodels. We also awarded several scholarships to university students connected to church and ministerial scholarships for pastors in our conference. Some of the Trustees's expenses were to replace the original mission tile roofs on the Day School and the Fellowship Hall. Another expense is the constant maintenance of an older campus.

The Foundation Board will be working closely with the church finance team to try to mitigate the spending from the Foundation, as this amount annually is not sustainable. Please pray for decisions to be made to maintain buildings and grounds, and keep programs vibrant and growing.

### Catalina Congregation, Friends and Family

Juan Cristobal Flores was a scholarship singer with our Sanctuary Choir for 10 years. He was the victim of a shooting and sadly passed away from his injuries. The choir would like to possibly commission a choir anthem in his memory, and/or start a scholarship fund in his memory. Choir members will be researching the potential commissioning of an anthem and no decision has been made yet to do this idea. Having a memorial scholarship fund at church would also be a great way to remember Juan. If either of these ideas appeal to you, you are invited to donate to the Sanctuary Choir Fund/Juan Cristobal Flores. We will keep you informed as to which direction we will take. It depends on how much money is raised.

Thank you for your consideration of a donation in the memory of Juan. You can donate on our website [catalinamethodist.org](http://catalinamethodist.org), or make a notation in a check in the offering. We will check the funds in a month to see which direction we will pursue.

Questions: email choir member: [judywingert@gmail.com](mailto:judywingert@gmail.com)



In loving memory of  
**Juan  
Cristobal  
Flores**

Congregational  
**care**

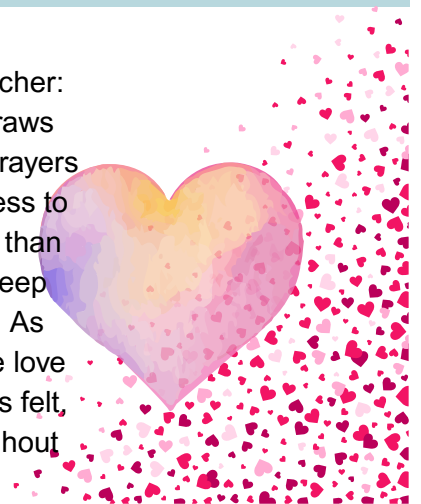


## Congregational Care Report

by Deaconess Toni Smith

February is the month of love! And people of faith, this month offers something richer: a chance to reflect on the kind of love that transforms lives, heals wounds, and draws us closer to God and one another. And whether it is through church community, prayers offered, a renewed commitment to prayer, a heart open to forgiveness, a willingness to serve, or a more profound love for your neighbor. These gifts honor God far more than any card or bouquet. So, as I make my rounds and visit the homebound, I try to keep this in mind and do as Jesus would, especially with these wonderful congregants. As we move through February, may we celebrate not only the love we receive but the love we are called to give. May our church continue to be a place where Christ's love is felt, shared, and multiplied, a love that lasts far beyond one holiday and shines throughout the year.

In love, justice, and service,  
Deaconess Toni Smith





## The Tucson Family Food Project

by Heather Atkins, Executive Assistant

The Tucson Family Food Project is a revolutionary new nonprofit dedicated to eradicating childhood food insecurity by providing free, healthy meals and teaching essential cooking skills to children and families in need. Through an innovative solution that addresses food insecurity at its root cause, we are empowering kids to build a healthier, hunger-free future. Since its inception in 2021, Catalina United Methodist church has graciously supported our project by providing kitchen and storage space. Without the kindness and generosity of CUMC we would not be where we are today.

### Looking Ahead to 2026: Our Aspirations

We are truly enthusiastic about our goals for 2026. Currently, we are proud to serve over 260 children in the Tucson community, with aspirations to reach 1,000 families by the end of this year.

### Exciting Developments

- We have recently acquired a section of an unused school, which will become our future home.
- Construction is set to begin in the spring to create a commercial kitchen that will enhance our program and allow us to serve many more families.

### Fresh Initiatives

- We are collaborating with several local farms to incorporate fresh ingredients and introduce the children to new and exciting foods.

With the ongoing support from the Tucson community, the steadfast generosity of CUMC, and the potential for future corporate sponsorships, we are determined to combat childhood insecurity in Tucson and beyond.



## United Women in Faith Shalom Circle

The Shalom Circle met on January 13 in the library, with women eager to learn about missions. At the last minute, the scheduled speaker canceled, so I had to put together an agenda quickly. I presented on a platform I am experienced in: the Deaconess and Home Missioner program. Additionally, we showed a video featuring three of my sisters who were consecrated with me last year, sharing their personal missions. It was an informative and engaging presentation!

The UWF Shalom Circle is meeting on February 10 @ 10 am in the library . We are looking forward to seeing you there !



# Catalina UMC Day School Report

by Carolyn Lovell, Executive Director

## Support Catalina United Methodist Day School – Raising Cane's Fundraiser

Catalina Day School is partnering with **Raising Cane's** for a community fundraiser on **Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 12noon to 7 pm** (Grab lunch with friends, or dinner with family and friends)

### How to participate:

- **Dine-in or Drive-Thru:** Tell the cashier you are supporting Catalina Day School
- **Online or App Orders:** Use fundraiser code **RCFUND96** at checkout

Raising Cane's will donate **15% of eligible sales** to support **classroom materials, art supplies, and hands-on learning experiences for our students.**

We invite our church members to participate and **share with friends and family**—thank you for supporting this important ministry to children and families.

Thanks,  
Carolyn Lovell, Executive Director

## JOIN OUR FUNDRAISER *at*

**Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> | 12:00PM - 7:00PM**  
**2604 E. Speedway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 86716**

Mention the fundraiser at the Restaurant or apply code **RCFUND96** to online or app orders at checkout and Cane's will **donate 15% of Net Sales\*** to:  
**Catalina United Methodist Day School**



**PLEASE  
JOIN US!**

## Catalina Breakfast Forum

Breakfast and a featured speaker on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of each month

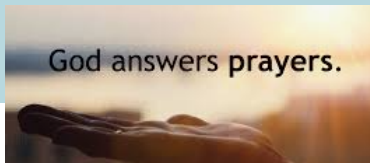
**February 07, 2026 - 9am in Fellowship Hall**

**Our featured speaker is Melanie Lawson, Public Outreach Director, Pima Association of Governments. Her topic is the RTA.**



A \$4/person donation is appreciated at the door!  
Please RSVP to 520-327-4296

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## 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](mailto:office@catalinamethodist.org) and we will publish it here!

Pease be in prayer for:

- protection and strength for those who are protecting and serving their neighbors in Minnesota. Justice for Renee and Alex and healing for their loved ones.
- Catalina UMC, Desert Skies UMC - Tucson; Oasis UMC Start, Eloy
- 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](mailto:toni@catalinamethodist.org)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Seekers Adult Sunday School Class: Sundays @ 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**

Koinonia Class for adults will begin an important book by Barbara Brown Taylor, *Home By Another Way*, on Sunday, January 18 at 9:00 am, Room E23. Books may be purchased from Amazon new or used or from Rev. Kirk Reed for \$10.

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

Our study will be *The Way of Wisdom*, a study of Proverbs by six authors. We will meet in room H230 at 9:30 until 11:30. We hope to see you there. We are a committed, welcoming group of women. Please contact Brenda Halferty if you wish to attend. [Bjhalferty@gmail.com](mailto:Bjhalferty@gmail.com) or 520-481-6993.

### **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. [Click Here](#) for a schedule of topics

### **Sing With The Sanctuary Choir: Rehearsals Thursdays-7-8:30pm**

Do you sing in the shower? Come sing with us at rehearsals and on Sundays—it's a blast! Got questions? Reach out to [Mariana@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:Mariana@catalinamethodist.org)

### **Festival Ringers Bell Choir: Rehearsals Thursdays @ 5:30-6:30pm**

Can you read music? We would love to have you join this fun group for rehearsals and performances throughout the coming year. Reach out to [Kyle@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:Kyle@catalinamethodist.org)

### **Catalina Breakfast Forum: Saturday, February 07 at 9am in Fellowship Hall**

The RTA (Regional Transit Authority) presented by Melanie Lawson, Public Outreach Director, Pima Association of Governments. \$4/person donation requested at the door. Please RSVP to 520-327-4296 so we know how much food to prepare!

### **Catalina Loves You:**

Join us on 2/13 from 5-6 pm in room E18 and the pine tree patio for this event for families that will include crafts and cookies!



## UPCOMING EVENTS Continued

### **The Way of Forgiveness – 8 Week Study Starting February 8th and 9th**

Pastor Mike will be starting the Companions in Christ: The Way of Forgiveness study on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. by Zoom and Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in person. Participants are asked to purchase the participant's guide: <https://www.amazon.com/Forgiveness-Participants-Book-Companions-Christ/dp/0835809803/>. The intention is not for Pastor Mike to be the only leader of the discussion. He will provide the leader's guide to interested participants the week they are leading. Please email Pastor Mike at [mike@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:mike@catalinamethodist.org) if you are interested in participating and if you are willing to lead a week.

### **United Women in Faith - Shalom Circle: Tuesday, February 17, 10am in the Library**

We invite all women to join us in fellowship as we gather in the spirit of love, justice, and service. For questions or more information, please contact Deaconess Toni Smith at [toni@catalinamethodist.org](mailto:toni@catalinamethodist.org).



## Also of Note:

### **[www.UMC.ORG/EN](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:office@catalinamethodist.org) Phone: 520-327-4296

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FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!  
REVIEW US ON GOOGLE!**

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*United Methodist Church*  
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