



THE CATALINA NEWSLETTER

2700 E. SPEEDWAY - TUCSON, AZ 85716

WWW.CATALINAMETHODIST.ORG

March, 2026

Volume 75, Issue 03



With the heat rising, the flowers blooming, and some of the animals emerging from their hibernation, we can tell spring is here—or at least very, very near. With spring emerging, we also find ourselves in our Church season of Lent. At the beginning of Lent, we, not unlike earth's winter, withdraw or retreat to reflect, store or restore our energy, become dormant to simplify our lives and turn toward our life in God. For us, Lent, like trees barren of leaves, is a time to let go of some things in our lives and to turn inward.

But, we know we do these things in anticipation of a reawakening, a rebirth, a resurrection that renews and restores. Again, as spring calls forth new life around us, our Church season of Easter is a sign of the new life that God gifts to us and, maybe more importantly, calls forth from us. So, as Lent is a season of asking, "What do I need to let go of—to let fall off of me like fall leaves from a tree?", we also anticipate the season of Easter when we ask, "What life do I want God to call forth from within me? Where are the dead places in my life or my world that need renewal and rebirth? Where can I be a source, with God's help, of renewal for someone else?"

As much as Easter, then, is a celebration of what God has done in Jesus Christ for God's world, Easter is also an opportunity for us to ask ourselves—individually or as a church community—"Where do we need resurrection in our own lives? Where does our faith community need God to call forth from our communal life new life?" And then, individually or collectively, to pray to God for that resurrection.

And so, I invite you to ask yourselves these questions. What stone needs to be rolled away from your own "tomb?" But also, I ask you to reflect on, "Where can I help my faith community, likewise, roll away its stones so that it may be called forth from its own tombs? And then also challenge ourselves to ask, in traditional language, "Where I can dedicate my time, talent, and treasure to help that calling forth to be spoken."

These are both spiritual questions—for individuals and for communities—and material questions—for individuals and communities. And I ask you to consider both and how they challenge you and what they call forth from you. On the material side, we will have envelopes on Easter Sunday to share your resources toward the hope for Catalina's own resurrection experience as it hopes and prays for God's call to new life in it. On the spiritual side, we will gather together in worship—Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday—as we prepare ourselves for our own call to new life.

I pray that God challenges each of our own spirits that we might retreat, reflect, that we might call out to God for new life in our lives. And I pray that each of us, like Lazarus in his tomb, might hear the voice of Jesus calling us out to new life with him. May this is Easter, and all Easters, be a chance for a resurrection for each one of us.



Open Table Continues

by Pastor Kelli

Last fall, as part of our worship pilots, we experimented with different styles and new formats. The primary goal was to explore experiences that might help us reach new people in new ways. While new faces have come, we learned that Open Table met a greater need within Catalina UMC we did not fully anticipate.

It turns out, many of us have been looking for a chance to connect and get to know one another better. We may recognize each other's faces on Sunday mornings, but Open Table has created a meaningful space for folks to connect. There was real energy in the room last fall — laughter, thoughtful conversation, and a growing sense of belonging.

Because of the meaningful connections that started last fall, we've decided to continue offering Open Table once a month, on the third Wednesday of each month, at least through May 2026.

In February, our first Open Table of the year coincided with our evening Ash Wednesday service. Thirty-eight adults — including many new faces — gathered to reflect on the meaning of Ash Wednesday, received ashes (with a touch of glitter to remind us that we are dust—and no less than the dust of the stars), shared Communion, and marked the beginning of Lent together. Over some homemade taco soup, we discussed Micah 6:8 and its steady invitation: to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

Six children enjoyed their own Open Table experience over macaroni and cheese, with a lesson on God's love and a craft to match — building community and connections in their own way.

Catalina's next Open Table will be **Wednesday, March 18, from 5:30–7:00pm in Fellowship Hall.**

To help us to plan for food and seating, please [RSVP by Sunday, March 15th](#) scanning the QR-code below or with this

[LINK:](#)

<https://forms.gle/ohdXMeJYnf9u9G616>



Thank you for your continued support of this growing ministry. There's something powerful about gathering at the table — not just to eat, but to listen, to learn, and to live more fully into who God is calling us to be, together!



He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

--Micah 6:8



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

February was a short month, but we still accomplished several important community outreach efforts. For example:

Interfaith Community Services, (ICS), “LotsaPasta” Food Drive – The total food donations were still coming in at the time this was written, but it looks like we may have exceeded last year’s donations of pasta, mac n” cheese, and pasta sauce. Thank you, Catalina, for your ongoing generosity. Just as a reminder, we keep a basket in the Sanctuary narthex year-round for any non-perishable, non-expired food donations for the food bank.

Primavera Men’s Shelter – At the time this report was written, our February 28th five course dinner at the men’s shelter hadn’t yet occurred. But our team of volunteers was in place and ready to cook, serve, and fellowship with the residents at the shelter. We will need four volunteers for our cooking team on **March 28th** and the 4th Saturdays of each month thereafter. If you are interested in standing and working in the Primavera kitchen for up to four hours, beginning at 2:00 pm on the fourth Saturdays of every month in 2026, please call the church office or contact Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com.

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen – We have our team of volunteers for shopping, cooking, and serving our special chicken and vegetable soup on Saturday, March 7th. However, we will need volunteer help for **Saturday, April 4th** and monthly dates thereafter. We meet at Casa Maria at 6:30 am (or at least no later than 7:00 am), and the work involves standing, cooking, and serving our excellent soup in a very small kitchen for about 4 hours. We’re typically finished by 10:30 am. Interested? Please call the church office or contact Doug Wingert at dougwingert@gmail.com.

Office Snack Packs – Catalina continues to offer snacks and bottled water to our homeless and hungry neighbors. Prior contributions for this outreach have been exhausted, so we are now partially funding this important mission effort through generous donations to supplement our budget.

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Making Marathon – We are now scheduled for our quarterly peanut butter and jelly sandwich making on **Friday afternoon, March 13th - enter thru East gate on Treat**. (Is there anything you would rather be doing on Friday the 13th)? We plan to make 500 sandwiches in just a few hours. Interested in helping? We will meet in Room E23, next to the church kitchen, at 3:00 pm and we should be done by 5:00 pm, or earlier, depending on the number of volunteers. We have room for 20 volunteers or more. This is an opportunity to sit, chat, and fellowship with others while spreading peanut butter and sharing the love of Christ.



Holy Week Dates

March 29: Palm Sunday – 10 am in the Sanctuary
April 02: Maundy Thursday – 6pm at First UMC, 915 E 4th St
April 03: Good Friday – 6pm at CUMC Sanctuary
April 05: Easter Sunday – 10am in the Sanctuary

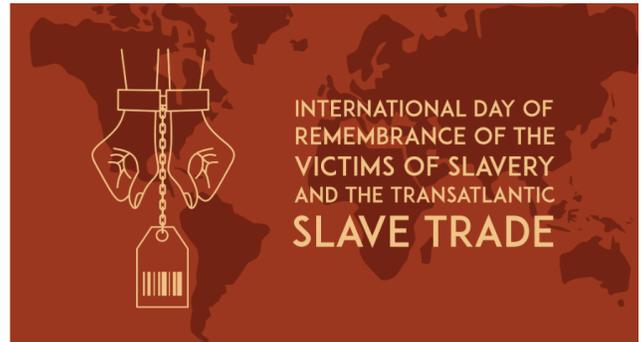


February Observances

By Kent Batty, Multicultural Committee

March 25 marks the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, created by the United Nations in 2007 to acknowledge that that “the slave trade and slavery are among the worst violations of human rights in the history of humanity, bearing in mind particularly their scale and duration.” This transatlantic trade, which operated between the fifteenth and late nineteenth centuries, was the horrific trafficking of an estimated 15 million enslaved African women, men and children, mostly from West Africa to the Americas.

Not only did this forced displacement enrich imperial and other powers, it also gave rise to false narratives of white supremacy and racial inferiority, which were used to justify this shameful practice. Because the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans had a direct effect on our modern conceptions of race, we need to understand this period, to fight its legacies, including racism and prejudice.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE OF THE
VICTIMS OF SLAVERY
AND THE TRANSATLANTIC
SLAVE TRADE



2025 CUMC Foundation Update

by Judy Wingert, President and Cori Hoag, Treasurer

In 2025, Catalina United Methodist Foundation provided \$494,854 to support CUMC (Trustees expenses, operating budget, Pastor Housing, renovation of five restrooms). We also awarded \$18,440 in scholarships (university students connected to CUMC and ministerial scholarships for pastors in our conference) and updated the Day School sleeping mats. Trustees replaced the original mission tile roofs on the Day School and the Fellowship Hall and worked to maintain our campus.

The Foundation Board will be working closely with the church finance team to try to mitigate the spending from the Foundation because this amount annually is not sustainable. Please pray for decisions to be made to maintain buildings and grounds and keep programs vibrant and growing. Your on-going contributions and qualified charitable donations are vital to the support of CUMC programs and property.

On Sunday, Feb. 15th, Tim Mason, Cori Hoag, Judy Wingert, Scott Campbell, Laurie Campbell, Kent Batty, Bob Golden, and Pastor Mike met to hear a report from Tim Mason, who, as a Foundation Board Member, devised a Foundation Forecasted Life expectation. How long will the Foundation be able to provide for CUMC assuming last year's distributions and additions through contributions and estate bequests? These 8 people represent Trustees, the new Leadership Board, church finance and the Foundation. Conversation was lively, introspective, and hopeful for a bright church and Foundation future. We are considering all aspects of church finances: income and expenses and a range of optimistic to pessimistic forecasts. The committee subgroup will start looking into the long-term, large-ticket expenses/repairs, such as the HVAC systems and the rest of the roofs. A capital campaign for the campus will likely be needed for specific projects and to address deferred maintenance. Please reach out to one of us with your suggestions and questions. We'll keep you posted with monthly updates.



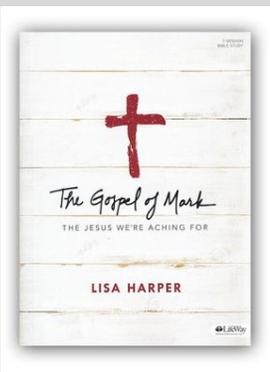
Last month, we celebrated Valentine’s Day by sharing heartfelt valentines with our wonderful congregants. We also marked the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday drive-through distribution of ashes. In just two hours, 46 people drove through to receive ashes and to share their prayer requests. Later that day, the event was featured on KVOA News, a meaningful acknowledgment of our church’s commitment to serving the wider community.

As we enter this sacred season, we are reminded of the prophet’s call: “What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Lent invites us to live these words with renewed intention—to repent, to refocus, and to open our hearts to God’s transforming grace. In addition to the drive-through service, we brought ashes to several of our homebound members. Mr. Briggs was especially delighted to receive his ashes on this memorable day, as you can see in the photo below. His joy echoes the psalmist’s prayer: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me” (Psalm 51:10).

It is such a joy to be able to oversee these wonderful people that we call family!

In love, justice, and service,
Deaconess Toni Smith

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”
(Micah 6:8)



Women’s Bible Study

We will take the month of March off, and begin anew April 1st. Our study will be *The Gospel of Mark, The Jesus We’re Aching For*, by Lisa Harper. We will continue to meet in room H230 from 9:30-11:30 each Wednesday from April 1st through May 13th. Contact Brenda Halferty at bjhalferty@gmail.com or 520-481-6993 to join or for more information. We are a wonderful group of faithful, caring women. Please plan to join us!



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!

Pease be in prayer for:

- Marilyn Hagg, Opal Weaver, and Everett Smort
- El Mesisas UMC, Nogales; First UMC, Bisbee
- 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: 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 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

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

Catalina Breakfast Forum: Saturday, Mar 07, 9-10am in Fellowship Hall

Join us for breakfast and conversation as Mariana Mevans--Director of Music and organist at CUMC and Dennis Grannan-founder of the Catalina Organ Festival, Organist and Curator Emeritus, share the story behind the Festival--how it began, why it matters and the rich musical history that continues to shape it today. Enter thru East gate on Treat

United Women in Faith - Shalom Circle: Tuesday, March 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.

NEW! Catalina Book Club: Sunday, Mar 22, 4pm in the Library

Our spring topic is: "A Hopeful View of Immigration" and the book we'll discuss is *The Truth About Immigration* by Zeke Hernandez. For more info contact wkirkreed@gmail.com

UMC Lay Servant Classes

By Gretchen Lofgren, Director, South District LSM

One person who strongly believed in Lay Servant Ministries was the late Kelly Deyoe. He took the Introduction/Basic class in 2003. After taking more classes, he soon took over the duties of South District Director, a position he worked diligently at until his passing last year (2025). As a quadriplegic, he set a shining example of a true Lay Servant to many. I took my first class in 2007. I was extremely shy and thought it would help me be more comfortable speaking with others. I enjoyed the classes and in 2010, Kelly approached me about “assisting” him with the program. I was fortunate to work with Kelly (as his co-director) for over 15 years.

What is Lay Servant Ministries? Lay Servant Ministries is one of the most significant and rewarding lay Leadership development programs within the United Methodist connection. Lay Servants have been an essential part of the methodist movement which started with John Wesley and still exists today as Lay Servant Ministries.

Some ordained pastors and District Superintendents can testify that their call to ministry started with taking Lay Servant Classes. Many pastors recommend the Introduction class for their Lay Leaders and Chairpersons of committees. Our own D.S. Javier Olivares is a strong supporter of this ministry and encourages laity to take classes.

The Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries class is the foundation for all classes and is an overview of the program in these three areas: Caring, Communicating, and Leading. Some Lay Servants go on to pursue becoming a Certified Lay Speaker and even a Certified Lay Minister. However, public speaking (i.e. speaking from the pulpit) is not a requirement when taking Lay Servant classes unless you choose to do so. There is a wide variety of classes offered such as a Spiritual Gifts class where you can discover what your gifts are and where you might best serve your church.

All classes are open for registration at: <http://dscumc.org/lay-servant-ministries>.

Transforming Evangelism: March 7 - Facilitated by Shirley Maddox at St Paul's UMC/Tucson; Registration Deadline: February 20th

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministry (Basic) March 14 & 21 - Facilitated by Linda Sterling at St John's UMC/Tucson, Registration Deadline: March 6th

For the Common Good (Spiritual Gifts) April 18 & 25 - Facilitated by Linda Sterling at Christ Church UM/Tucson; Registration Deadline: April 10th

Zoom Classes -

LSM Called to Preach March 7 & 14 - Facilitated by: Pastor Carl Peterson (class size very limited/register early) **Only 1 slot left

Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries April 25, May 2 & May 9 (9am -12:30pm - Facilitated by Susan Bowers
Leading Public Prayer & Intercessional Prayer April 19, 26 & May 3 (1:30 pm - 5pm) - Facilitated by Amy Kalm



[Click Here](https://dscumc.org/committee/lay-servant-ministries/)

[to learn more about Lay Servant Ministries](https://dscumc.org/committee/lay-servant-ministries/)

<https://dscumc.org/committee/lay-servant-ministries/>



**CATALINA
BREAKFAST
FORUM**

Presents:
**Catalina Organ Festival:
12 years of Excellence!**

MARCH 7TH, 2026 - 9 AM, FELLOWSHIP HALL

**Catalina
Organ
Festival**

Join us for breakfast and conversation as Mariana Mevans, Director of Music and Organist at CUMC, and Dennis Grannan, Founder of the Catalina Organ Festival, Organist and Curator Emeritus, share the story behind the Festival—how it began, why it matters, and the rich musical history that continues to shape it today.

\$4/person donation
Please RSVP to 520-327-4296
WWW.CATALINAMETHODIST.ORG



**TUCSON
ZERO WASTE**

Free Event
Drive-Thru, Drop Off, and Recycle

TUCSON'S BIENNIAL FREE SUSTAINABILITY EVENT
Saturday, March 28 • 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
2700 E. Speedway (Enter on 1st Street) • North of Himmel Park

ACCEPTED ITEMS

American Flags to Retire • Books • Canning Jars • Classroom Supplies • Clothing • Craft Supplies • Electronics • Eyeglasses • Garden Tools • Lanyards • Paper for Shredding • Pet Supplies • Prescriptions • Scrap Metal • Small Home Goods • Visit TucsonZeroWaste.com for the most up-to-date list.

NO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE ITEMS

CITY OF TUCSON
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

TucsonZeroWaste.com

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: LIKE US ON
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!
REVIEW US ON GOOGLE!**

Catalina 
United Methodist Church
2700 E Speedway Blvd • Tucson, AZ 85716
520-327-4296 • www.catalinamethodist.org