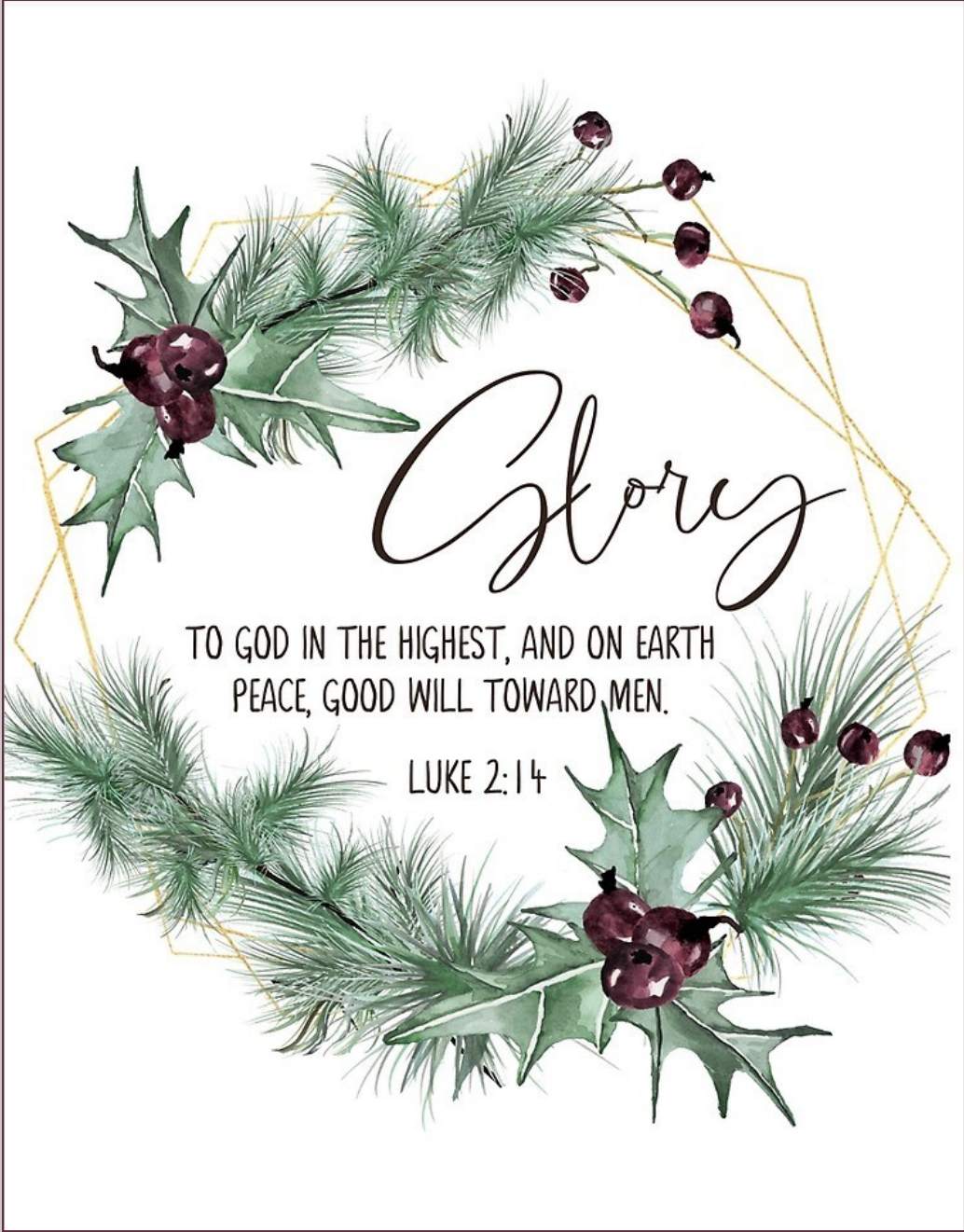


United Methodist Church of Green Valley

Methodist Messenger



December 2023



From the Pastor's Desk

In October of this year, you received the first Faithful Finances newsletter. If you did not receive your Faithful Finances newsletter, contact the office, and we will make sure you are on the list. This newsletter is a quarterly newsletter that will be communicating with you about all things, finances and stewardship as it relates to the local church and our life together. Since the publication of the first Faithful Finances newsletter, I have been asked about a financial update about the reality that we were facing an \$85,000 deficit in the final quarter of 2023. In that newsletter, I also encouraged you, as we were coming into the year-end, to consider making a year-end gift to the ministry of the local church. Although January will be the next edition of Faithful Finances, I wanted to give you an update and also clarify some things since that October publication.

A question was asked, how are things different this year than last year? Well, over half of the shortfall of this year is a result of two things. First some very generous members have moved away or died. That giving does not replace itself immediately. The majority however came as a result of our budgeting for the solar to have been completed. We anticipated a \$25,000 savings this year that was not realized. The total in that shortfall was nearly \$50,000. As I stated in the October Financial newsletter, this is not sustainable for the long-term.

Since the October newsletter, the GVCC Foundation in response to the Faithful Finances newsletter, made a one-time distribution of \$19,600. The amount of \$7,600 was given to support the ongoing radio broadcast ministry of UMC GV. Historically this had been done but had been overlooked in recent years. The remaining \$12,000 was given for administrative support as both Lou Schellhaas serves as the financial administrator and Deanne Handlong serves with administrative assistance for the GVCC Foundation.

We have just completed our 2024 Stewardship campaign and hope that if you have not turned in your Estimate of Giving Card you would consider doing so soon. We have work to do and look ahead to all that God is doing among us!

With Thanks,



Pastor Doug



Join us for Fellowship on Zoom Sundays after 10:15 worship

The zoom link is emailed every Saturday night. If you are not on our mailing list, please contact the church office for the zoom link.



We are a caring congregation that affirms all of God's children regardless of age, race, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, political persuasion; or anything else that might separate us from one another.

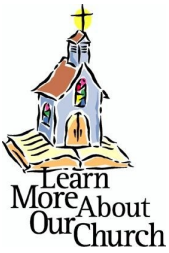
We work to ensure an environment of safety and trust, where spiritual journeys can be shared, and each person is treated with dignity and respect. All are invited to participate fully in the life of our church as we walk with Christ in the light of God's unconditional love.

Senior Pastor: *Rev. Doug Handlong* | Associate Pastor: *Rev. Ken Bensen*
 Spiritual Formation and Social Justice: *Rev. Jerry Haas*



Welcome to our New Members

**Sandi Hopper,
Judith and Michael Lloyd,
Martha and David Cole,
Robin Purdy
and Dave Egan**



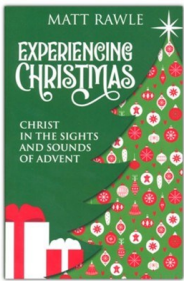
Come learn more about us and what it means to be a United Methodist and about our church.

Join Pastor Doug in the Fireside Room (off the Narthex) immediately following the 10:15 am Worship Service on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

This month it will be on December 17

3 Kings Sunday on December 3rd

We will be collecting unwrapped gifts for children during both worship services on December 3rd. The United Methodist Men will deliver the gifts to the Salvation Army & Crossroads Mission.



T.A.G. Sunday School Class

A new 4 week Advent study started on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in the Fireside Room. "Experiencing Christmas, Christ in the sights and sounds of Advent" by Matt Rawle. Books are available in the church office for \$13 or at your favorite book store or website.

Christmas Cantata Sunday

Sunday, December 17, the 3rd Sunday of Advent, the Chancel Choir will present its Christmas Cantata "What Sweeter Music" at the 10:15 Service. We hope you will invite your friends and come and enjoy our Presentation.



Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas Poinsettia Order Forms will be available in the church office and Sunday Bulletins. Orders are due by December 18. They are \$10 each.

The Advent Texts

Advent
A Season of Hope
& Expectation

Some of the most fascinating and important scriptures are those that we read during Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of Christ. During the three Wednesdays in Advent, I invite you to join me in reading these texts to see if there are new insights for us as Christ-followers this year.

Time and place:

Wednesday, **December 6** – 10:00 in the Sunday School Room

Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37; Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85

Wednesday, **December 13** – 10:00 in the Sunday School Room

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Wednesday, **December 20** – 10:00 in the Sunday School Room

Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:26-38

Bring your bibles!

Jerry Haas



JUST COFFEE (Café Justo)

Coffee direct from growers to you for sale and support this Christian mission from this nonprofit organization.

\$10 to \$12 a pound, whole bean or ground. In the narthex after both worship services the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.



CHAIR EXERCISE TO PREVENT FALLING

BEGINNING DECEMBER 4
MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS
AT 10:00 AM
IN JOHNSON HALL



Please join us for a safe and supportive environment to learn chair exercises for fall prevention. The exercises will increase range of motion, improve balance, and build strength. Beginning December 4th. Classes will be Monday and Thursday at 10am and lasting 30 - 45 minutes.

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6



United Methodist Men host a Breakfast Program

December 16th at 8:30 am

Men's [sponsored] Breakfast:

We plan to have the renowned Reader's Theatre for their Annual Christmas Performance and we will be enjoying a home cooked breakfast!



United Methodist Boot Camp Scheduled for January 25, 2024

You're invited to become a new or returning veteran of UMCGV's United Methodist Boot Camp on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

The group will be called to attention at 9:00 a.m. and dismissed at noon (0900 and 1200 boot camp time) with adequate food rations (coffee, lemonade, and edible snacks) available.

The "camp" provides an overview of the history, organizational structure, and the many opportunities for service and witness available at UMC of Green Valley.

Boot Camp will try to answer such questions as the following: "Who is John Wesley and why are we always talking about him?" "How did we get to be The *United Methodist Church*?" "What's a *Book of Discipline* and why does it matter?" And, with the advent of the Global Methodist Church (GMC), what's ahead for the way the UMC will continue in the UMC's mission of making disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?

The Boot Camp is a great orientation for new members or those thinking about joining our church. It is also an excellent refresher course for the more seasoned "troops" who may also want to learn more about the opportunities ahead as the UMC transitions into new and continued organizational and missional operations.

All those attending previous Boot Camps (pre-COVID) have agreed it was time well spent. Doris Miller will once again act as your drill sergeant (course facilitator). Please sign up on the Sunday Connect Cards or call the church office if you plan to join us for a Boot Camp that still doesn't require marching, white-glove inspections . . . or peeling potatoes!



Neil Hinton Award

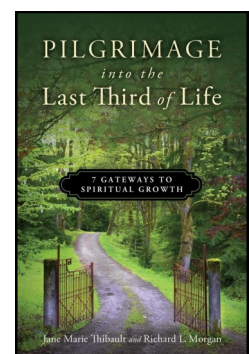
Since 2015, United Methodist Men have recognized a member of our congregation for outstanding service to our church. This award honors the memory of Neil Hinton, a longtime member and dedicated employee.

Please join us on December 17 as we thank this year's recipients, Bill Voorhees and Jean Neely for all they do in God's name.

New Class: "Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life"

Pastor Ken will be leading a new class starting January 3 at 10:00 am.

The book is called, "Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life" and is available in the church office for \$12.





Esperanza Memory Café!

With funding support from Pima Council on Aging (PCOA), our church just launched its first Memory Café as part of our Caring thru Dementia ministry. Because our church is located on Esperanza Boulevard and because we want to welcome participation from the community, we decided to name it “Esperanza Memory Café.” (“Esperanza” means “hope” in Spanish.)

Memory café is an innovative approach towards ending the isolation those experiencing memory loss and their caregivers often feel. Described as a “welcoming place,” memory café is a one-hour program with music, snacks, storytelling, and activities in a safe, supportive, and fun environment.

Our first Memory Café, launched as a pilot program November 15, was “Thanksgiving Memories” with Pastor Doug as emcee and Linda Truesdell as musician. Beginning this month and continuing through 2024, Esperanza Memory Cafes will be held on the second Thursday of the month at 2:00 pm. Trained volunteers will be designing and hosting each gathering.

Caregivers and their loved ones are encouraged to come; please call the church office (520-625-4712) to register. Upcoming dates and themes are:

December 14 (2:00 pm) – “Christmas Favorites”

January 10 (2:00 pm) – “Years Gone By”

February 14 (2:00 pm) – “Happy Valentine’s Day”

Besides this program, the **Caring thru Dementia ministry** will continue to network with monthly forums on topics related to dementia, caregiving, and aging health. Upcoming topics include:

November 30 (2:00 pm) – Caregiving Challenges and Resources – Cynthia Wolcott, MSW

January 25 (2:00 pm) – Special Needs in Caregiving – Carrie Tanner, United Cerebral Palsy

Jerry Haas



Grateful for the success of our first Esperanza Memory Café in November.



“Monday Funday”

**Every Monday
1:00 to 3:30**

Join us in Johnson Hall
to play your favorite table games.

Whether it’s Mexican Train, Cribbage, Scrabble, Monopoly or
something else, join in the fun!

Open to everyone in the community!

Light refreshments are served.



Knit and Sew & Prayer Shawl

Come Join Us Every Tuesday at 9:00 am

Some of us Knit and Crochet
Some of us Sew

We *all* eat cookies, drink coffee and have fun!!

Join us in the Narthex and Johnson Hall



Bible Study & Breakfast for Men

The men of UMCGV meet on **Wednesday mornings at 7:00 am**
for breakfast, fellowship, and Bible Study at Manuel’s Restaurant.

We promise good food, good study, and a lively conversation.

Office Hours for Financial Education are

Wednesdays 9:00 to 11:30

Free and confidential, financial coaching

Learn to make a budget • Learn about resources

Come by on Wednesday mornings or contact our church office if you
are interested in learning more.



Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir

Handbell Practice meets regularly on **Wednesdays at 1:00** in Johnson Hall.

Chancel Choir Practice meets regularly on **Wednesdays at 2:00** in the Choir Room.

We always welcome new members and we would love to have you join us. Just come to rehearsal on
Wednesday afternoons. We sing at the 10:15 worship service on Sundays. Hope to see you there.

Linda Truesdell, Music Director



United Methodist Women

UMW Unit Meeting

December 13 at 9:30 am in Johnson Hall

'Tis the Season to be Jolly!

- Sing-a-long with Linda
- Christmas Brunch—bring your fav
- Installation of Officers
- Memorial Service
- WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE

white
ELEPHANT
gift exchange



Lydia Circle

Watch for more information about our December meeting in future bulletins.



We had a very successful Thanksgiving meal. Thank you again to everybody who helped make this a huge success and blessing for so many!



Thank you to everybody who came out and helped us decorate the church for the advent season!



PLAN TO JOIN US HOPE Lunch

1ST & 3RD
FRIDAYS
11:00 - 12:30



HOPE Lunch

Our mission is to provide a nourishing meal and friendly fellowship in a pleasant environment to ALL in the community and church family.

Plan to join us for food, fun and fellowship.
Everyone is welcome to this community event.
Bring your neighbors and friends!

On the Menu

December 1
Beef Stew
Fruit Cup
Roll
Gingerbread

December 15
Chicken Noodle Casserole
Green Salad
Roll
Mandarin Orange Cake

Produce on Wheels With-Out Waste

UMCGV Parking Lot on the 1st Saturday of each month

December 2nd 8:00 am to 11:00 am

\$15 for 70 Pounds of Produce



Borderlands
Produce Rescue

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



**The 3rd Sunday of each month
is Food Bank Sunday**

**This month will be
on December 17**

***In November we donated
113 pounds of food and \$635***

Thank you for supporting our local Food
Bank and Community!

Our Shopping Cart is in the Narthex for
food donations.

You may also leave monetary donations in
the Shoe Box in the Shopping Cart.

Please make checks payable to
the Community Food Bank.



Border Community Alliance

BCA just celebrated its 10th anniversary as a nonprofit organization dedicated to “bridging the Border and fostering community” in the Borderlands region. With its broad, inclusive mission, BCA offers cross border tours to Nogales, Sonora, as well as Magdalena and points further south; forums and classes on history, culture, and economics; “Let’s Learn Spanish” via Zoom; and an outstanding summer student program. BCA’s Book and Film Circle meets monthly, with fascinating author interviews you can participate in. More information can be found at <https://bordercommunityalliance.org/>

As former executive director, I’m proud of what BCA has done and how it continues to be an organization that offers a way for people to relate to the complex reality of both the international border to the south and to the many “borders” that separate us culturally and socially, including with the Tohono O’odham and Pascua Yaqui peoples.

Upcoming opportunities for you to consider include:

- Art and History Tour of Tubac – Dec. 3
- Tour to Magdalena, Sonora – Dec. 9
- Art and archeological tour to Mata Ortiz, Chihuahua – Jan. 12-15

Jerry Haas



Bring in advent with loves pure light, a Christmas concert by Green Valley Community Chorus

on December 4 at 7:00 pm
and December 5 at 2:30 pm

At Valley Presbyterian Church
2800 S. Camino del Sol

Highlights are a 17th century Christmas Carol with a new musical score written by our own Lynn Swan. Our director, CJ Madison, composed a Christmas anthem dedicated to Green Valley Community Chorus about the true meaning of Christmas.

For tickets contact Sabbina Nelson 616-690-1137
Price: \$15 each.



ESTATE AND PATIO SALES



DECEMBER 15 & 16
8:00 AM - NOON

385 CALLE DE LA PROFETAS

GIVE BLOOD



American Red Cross

You can make a difference.

A Huge Thank you to everybody who came out to give blood at our Blood Drive last month.

A Big Thank You to our wonderful organizers, Jan Bolstad and Christine Maglott!

Pictured here is our own Pastor Doug giving blood!



Our next Blood Drive will be on February 23, 2024

United Methodist Women

Christmas & Bake Sale

Thank you for helping us raise \$2200 for missions!

PRAYER LIST

Joyce and Joseph Anderson
Amy Aranda
Karen Bensen
Viola Cleo Bradshaw
Cressi and Dido De La Garza
Judy Downing
Arlene "Griz" Griswold
Virginia Harper
Ken Hartz
Kathy Ingalsbe
Kyle LaFollette

Gary and Janet Logan
Lee Love
Judy Lyle
Jan Marchiniak
Morales Family
Brian Morris
Millie Paluch
Carol Potter
Helen Tull
Lorain Zimmerman

*May God hold you in the palm of His hand
and angels watch over you.*

Desert Southwest Annual Conference
Pray with others around our district...

December Prayer Focus

Chaplains & Counselors in the South District
The Inn Project, Tucson
TMM Family Services - people served and staff, Tucson

UMCGV Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain is a group of church members dedicated to praying. All the prayer requests are confidential and are not published.

You can activate the prayer chain by calling Lorna Peck at 520-625-2053.



We Nurture Human Connection

Feeling lonely?
...or stressed?

Call **Green Valley Cares** when
you want someone to listen!

520 440-4457

In Remembrance



We honor the lives and memories of our church members who have recently passed...

*Wanda Brooks
Dr. Richard "Dick" Johnson
Jack Kiliury
Betty Cupples*



12/2	Kathryn Nester	12/17	Jack Schmid
12/3	Lois Schaefer	12/18	Sharon Eaton
12/3	Ron Guschel	12/18	Bob Haegele
12/5	Janice McMullen	12/18	Dawn Hayes
12/7	Jan Linch	12/22	Jan Logan
12/7	Harvey Schmer	12/22	William England
12/7	Bob McElroy	12/23	Gloria Simmers
12/8	Betsey Medearis	12/24	Ron Gronlund
12/8	Chuck Nelson	12/25	Judy Holley
12/9	Robin Wiebe	12/27	Diane O'Driscoll
12/9	George Nelson	12/28	Cathy Ivie
12/12	Gary Logan	12/28	Patti West
12/12	Ivan Fisher	12/29	Carol Greer
12/15	Carol Harris	12/30	Judy Green
12/16	Carol Potter	12/31	Patty Simon
12/16	Shirley Gibson	12/31	Brenda Zenan



12/9 **Patty and Conrad Simon**
12/15 **Phyllis and Gene Neer**
12/18 **Jan and Don Linch**
12/23 **Cheri and Dusty Teague**
12/26 **Jeanne and Jim Campbell**
12/27 **Joann and Larry Wilson**
12/27 **Diana Dougherty and George Hyslop**
12/27 **Mardy and Bob Guelzow**
12/30 **Jo and Ed Kesler**

Register for the Fry's
Community Rewards Program



Fry's Community Rewards Program

It is free and easy to do to make our church your designated charity.

If you have not connected your card yet, you can link us to your personal rewards card by going to frysfood.com and searching for us by our full name or ID Number (QH797)

(there is also a direct link on our website.)

This donation to the church is in addition to the benefits you earn for yourself.



The Newsletter Deadline

for our December edition is
December 14

Please send your articles and pictures to
office.umcgv@gmail.com

Thank you!

Opportunities to Give Online

Visit our website at
umcgv.org/ways-to-give

Electronic giving is secure, quick and easy to set up using a debit or credit card or your bank account. You can give a one-time or recurring gift through our secure online giving platform. You can also scan below with your phone camera.



Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Phone: 520-625-4712
office.umcgv@gmail.com



The Church Office will be closed on December 26 and January 2 in observance of Christmas and the New Year!

Our Ministry Team

Rev. Douglas Handlong - *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Kenneth Bensen - *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Jerry Haas - *Spiritual Formation & Social Justice*

Linda Truesdell - *Music Director*

Doris Miller - *Song Leader*

Chad Eggen - *Facilities Manager*

Lou Shellhaas - *Finance Administrator*

Deanne Handlong - *Office Administrator*

Tom Bright, Chad Eggen, Jane Furtwangler, Catherine Ivie, Shirley Urquhart and

Bill Voorhees - *Media Team Members*

Everyone - *Ministers*

2023 Leadership Team

Doug Bolstad, Guy Jackson, Penny Jansmann, Doris Miller, Don Scarlett,
Mary Beth Stensgard and Gene Ulrich



November and Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 1	HOPE Lunch
December 2	P.O.W.W.O.W Borderlands Produce
December 3	3 Kings Sunday
December 4	Chair Exercise begins
December 6	Advent Scripture Study begins
December 7	UMW Board Meeting
December 13	UMW Unit Meeting
December 14	Esperanza Memory Cafe
December 14	December Newsletter Deadline
December 15	HOPE Lunch
December 16	UMM Breakfast
December 21	Leadership Team Meeting
December 24	Christmas Eve Services 8:00 10:15 5:00

Stay up to date with our weekly newsletter, “Keeping in Touch”

Every Week at UMCGV

Mondays

Exercise Class
10:00 am
in Johnson Hall

Monday Funday
1:00 pm
in Johnson Hall

Tuesdays

Knit and Sew & Prayer Shawl
9:00 am

In Johnson Hall & Narthex

Wednesdays

Men’s Breakfast and Bible Study
7:00 am

Financial Education Office Hours
9:00 - 11:30

Choir Practices
Handbell 1:00 pm
Chancel 2:00 pm

Thursdays

Exercise Class
10:00 am
in Johnson Hall



Check Out Our Website

It’s full of all kinds of information and resource links. There’s something for everyone!

umcgv.org

United Methodist Church of Green Valley
300 W. Esperanza Blvd.
Green Valley, AZ 85614



SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sundays In-Person and Online at 8:00 and 10:15

Find our services on our website umcgv.org or on our YouTube channel.

You can also hear us at 8:00 am on KGVY 1080 am or 101.5 fm.