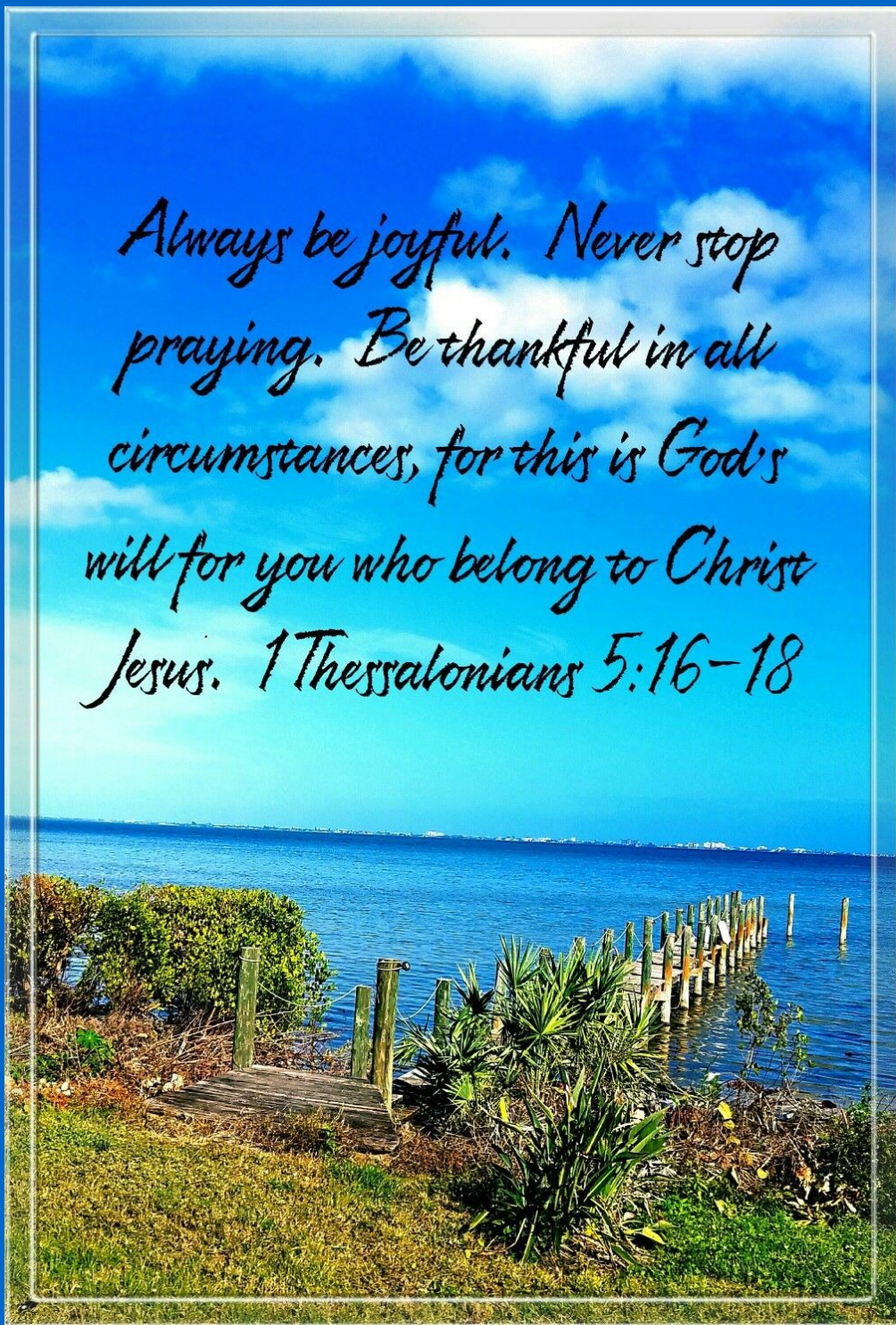


United Methodist Church of Green Valley
Methodist Messenger

*Always be joyful. Never stop
praying. Be thankful in all
circumstances, for this is God's
will for you who belong to Christ
Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*



June 2023



Last month I wrote to you and shared about our new governing structure here at UMCGV. At our November 2022 church conference, we adopted a simplified accountable structure which allows a single board to serve as the primary overseer of all essential administrative functions of the local church. This includes all matters related to personnel policies, financial matters, and facility maintenance of the local church.

One of the biggest questions that many people ask when it comes to the adoption of this administrative model is in regard to other committees and how other ministries are done in the local church.

As we have witnessed, over the last year, at times ministries are born and flourish on their own. Two great examples are the Caring Through Dementia and the Refugee Resettlement Ministry teams. Both of these emerged out of studies and people feeling the call of the Holy Spirit to rise up and take on a new ministry. Other ministries like the United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, HOPE Lunch, Patio Sales, Knit and Sew, Men's Bible Study and Monday Funday are ongoing. Ministries like these require little committee oversight or management. There are countless other ministries that have yet to come to life.

Do you have an idea for a ministry? Maybe God is calling you to lead a study group, a prayer ministry, a meditation group or a mission team? Here is what I would encourage you to do. First share that idea with a friend or two. Test the waters. Let that be the beginning of your ministry team. Having a strong beginning and a solid foundation is essential for any ministry to succeed. Pray for that ministry. Pray for guidance, direction and patience as it comes to be. Remember a seed planted today does not bear fruit overnight. Then bring your idea to one of the pastors. Myself, Pastor Ken or Pastor Jerry can give further guidance in birthing a new ministry and providing resources that may be needed.

Ministry happens when each of us shares our passions, gifts and callings not simply when a committee does the work, or a paid staff person does it all for us. The ministry of the church is our shared work and our calling.

Pastor Doug



Now Serving
Cafe Justo
EVERY SUNDAY THIS SUMMER

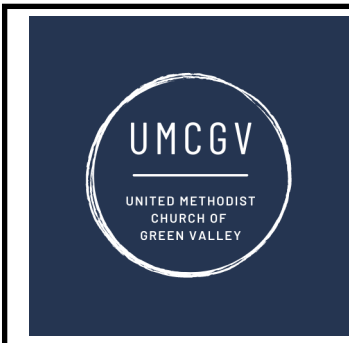
**YOU CAN PURCHASE
CAFE JUSTO EVERY
2ND AND 4TH
SUNDAY DURING
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP**

Join Us for Fellowship
after worship in the
Narthex on
Sunday Mornings

JOIN US FOR
Virtual Fellowship

**Join us for Fellowship on Zoom
Sundays at 11:00 am**

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 our New Members



John and Julie Donnelly



Carrie West

new MEMBERS
ORIENTATION

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL NOT BE
MEETING IN JUNE.



We want to give a great big

THANK YOU

to Jim Campbell and Warren Schupp

for all their hard work and dedication
every single Thursday Morning.

They help make our campus beautiful year
round. Please give them a
heartfelt thank you when you see them!

HOPE LUNCH is Sponsoring

4th
of
JULY
Indoor Picnic

Tuesday, 4 July 2023

NOON - 2:00 PM

JOHNSON HALL

HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, CONDIMENTS,
ICED TEA AND LEMONADE
ARE PROVIDED

PLEASE BRING
SALADS OR DESSERTS

FOOD | FELLOWSHIP | FUN



United Methodist Church of Green Valley Families Celebrate Their...

Middle School Graduate

Lucy Sefton, granddaughter of Bill Voorhees,
graduated from Sahuarita Middle School

High School Graduates

Maura Blackburn, granddaughter of Joe and Sandy Wilson,
graduated from High School in Santa Cruz, California.

Chris Knudsen, son of Celina Knudsen,
graduated from Walden Grove High School.

Naomi Moryosef, granddaughter of John and Marlene McNiece,
graduated from Torah High School in San Diego, California.

Sean Tucker, grandson of Sam and Nita Tucker,
graduated from San Jose High School.

Alena Wiebe, great-niece of Robin Wiebe,
graduated from Lincoln High School in Rhode Island.

College Graduates

Caden Foppe, grandson of Joan Caldwell,
Graduated summa cum laude, with a degree in Cinema and
Moving Images from the University of Boulder, Colorado.

Abby Handlong, daughter of Pastor Doug and Deanne Handlong,
graduated with a degree in English from Northern Arizona University.

Max Hyde Sherman, grandson of Jim and Joann Reedy,
graduated from Southern Maine University.

Emma Simms, great-niece of Robin Wiebe,
graduated from Long Island University, New York.

Alex Tucker, grandson of Sam and Nita Tucker,
graduated from the University of Kansas.

Master's Degree Graduates

Chloe Fackler, granddaughter of Tom Frenshley
graduated from the University of North Carolina with a Master's
degree in Anthropology.

Kallie Handlong, daughter of Pastor Doug and Deanne Handlong,
graduated with a Master's degree in Higher Education from The
University of Arkansas.

Brianna Saville, granddaughter of Sandy and Pastor Ken Bensen,
graduated with a Master's degree in Public Health with an Emphasis
in Nutrition from Northern Arizona University.

Kaylee Saville, granddaughter of Sandy and Pastor Ken Bensen,
graduated with a Master's degree in Organizational Sciences from
George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Doctoral Degree Graduate

Kevin Blackett, grandson of Pat Shipman, graduated from
Illinois College of Optometry and is now a Doctor of Optometry.



“Monday Funday”

Every Monday from 1:00 to 3:30

Join us in Johnson Hall to play your favorite table games. Whether it's Mexican Train, 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
and some of us make Teddy Bears!

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.

Questions? Contact Don Scarlett



Do I Hear Bells?

Would you be interested in learning to play the hand bells, or continuing your participation if you are a former ringer? Plan to join us for our first meeting on

Wednesday, June 7 at 1:00

in Johnson Hall.



Financial Coaching

Free and confidential, financial coaching.

Let us know in the church office if you are interested in learning more.

520-625-4712 or office.umcgv@gmail.com



United Methodist Women

UMW Unit Meetings and Lydia Circle

United Methodist Women will not meet until September 13. Enjoy the Summer!

Check out our webpage on the church website for updated Conference Newsletters and other nuggets of information.

<https://www.umcgv.org/united-methodist-women>



Last month we expanded our horizon and learned about the services the Animal League of Green Valley provides.

Our speakers were President, Kim Iseley and our own, Carolyn Hewatt who is a Board Member.



They gave out bracelets saying,

“A Home for Every Pet”



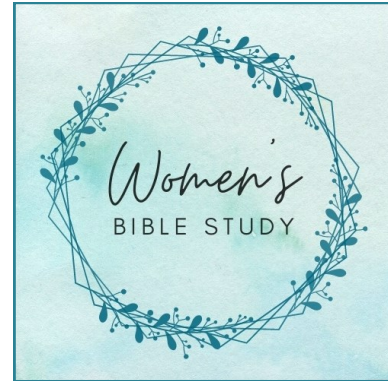
Rock Painting

Join GV Rocks on

June 8th

1:00 - 3:00 in the Sunday School Room

Enjoy painting rocks together along with enjoying some fun and laughter!



Women's Bible Discussion Group - Take II

A group of us had invigorating discussions last summer about seldom-mentioned, little-known women in scripture and their unsung contributions to the understanding and practice of faith as well as to the birth and spread of Christianity. It turns out there are *MANY* more of these women in both the Old and New Testaments.

SO . . . for any interested women, we will continue our reading and discussions

starting Tuesday, July 25 at 1:00

in the Fireside room.

Again, no homework, just bring a Bible (we like to have various translations) and be ready for some in-depth discussions.

We'll plan to continue through the 5 Tuesdays of August, ending 8/29.

If you plan to join us for one or more sessions, please indicate on the connect cards or let the office know. Feel free to bring a guest!

HOPE Lunch
NO LUNCHESES IN
JUNE, JULY & AUGUST
WE WILL BE BACK
IN SEPTEMBER!



WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023



Estate and Moving Sales Group photo

Photo op!

Members of the Estate and Moving Sales Group, often called the Green Aprons, stopped for a photo during their latest sale. The group is made up of community volunteers and members of the United Methodist Church of Green Valley. From left: Sharon Wohl (sales), Sandie DeLaney (kitchen), Joy Leithner (kitchen), Susan Montello (things) and George Nelson (tools).

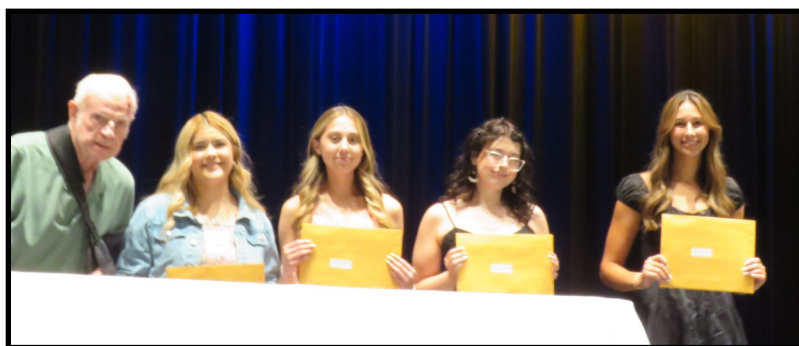


News from the GVCC Foundation

This year we were able to award scholarships to 5 local graduates! We now support 21 students.

Our new scholarship recipients are Rhiley Grant from Walden Grove High School and Alexis Allen, Brianna Aruffe, Alena Black and Autumn White from Sahuarita High School. Congratulations to all of you and best wishes for success in your studies. We look forward to seeing them at our annual Student Sunday service in January.

And thank you to the congregation of UMCGV for your support. Investing in the education & future of our youth is one of the most important things we can do as a community. If you would like to make a donation to our Foundation to help provide scholarships contact the church office for a brochure.



Sahuarita High School
 Tom Bright with Brianna Aruffe, Alexis Allen,
 Autumn White and Alena Black



Walden Grove High School
 Tom Bright with Rhiley Grant

Caring through Dementia Network

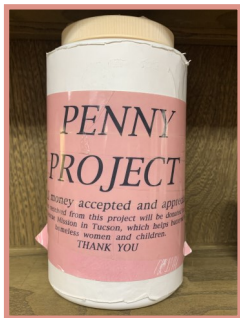
"Frequent Questions related to the Dementia Journey" is the theme for the Caring thru Dementia series on Thursday, **June 8**, at 3:00 pm in Johnson Hall. Our speaker is David Torrez, Options Counselor at Pima Council on Aging. The public is invited to attend.



Check out our website! We have a page dedicated to our Caring Through Dementia Ministry. You can find it under the "Connect" tab or by scrolling down our main page and clicking on the link there. We have all our forum videos there for you to watch. Share the link and let others know about this valuable information.

www.umcgv.org/caring-through-dementia

We will keep you up to date with the activities we are offering in our weekly newsletter, Keeping in Touch.



The Penny Project

Thank you to all who have supported the Gospel Rescue Mission with your donations through the Penny Project.

Please continue to support this project as little bits add up (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and paper money) and make a BIG difference in other peoples lives.

There are canisters in the narthex and also in the office for your donations!!!



Collecting Containers

Kino Border Initiative prepares and serves meals for 800 people every day. They need plastic containers (clean and complete with lids) for 'takeout'.

Yogurt and cottage cheese containers - or any kind of durable takeout container (with lid) will do.

We have a box in the Narthex or you can bring them to the church office.

They are very appreciative of all our donations!



"A MILE IN MY SHOES: Immigration and the Bible"

One of the most challenging issues of our time is immigration, not just here in this country, but around the world. As Christians, we listen not only to contemporary voices; we listen also to scripture and seek God's guidance as to how to respond.

This five day engagement retreat, an adaption of a model developed by The Upper Room, offers lay and clergy a chance to wrestle with the topic and listen to the people affected by the policies currently practiced. The dates are October 22-27, 2023, and the location is the Redemptorist Renewal Center in northwest Tucson.

Talk to Pastor Doug or to Jerry Haas (jndhaas@gmail.com) for more information.





2023 MISSION PROJECT NEWS

DESERT SOUTHWEST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Our Conference is a generous Conference. Year after year, we have witnessed the power of Desert Southwest United Methodists making a difference in the lives of so many. I can already feel the blessings to come. Here we go!!! Annual Conference Mission Projects 2023 are here!

Ukraine UMC Support

February 24th, 2023, marked the 1-year mark for the war in Ukraine with Russia. In the past year, thousands have died, been injured, and lost loved ones. Millions have lost their homes; cities have been completely destroyed. The Methodist clergy continue their ministry with all people of Ukraine, offering food, clothing, shelter, schooling, migration to the western part of Ukraine, and so much more. Our support and prayer are critical.

RIP Medical Debt

As medical costs continue to escalate, more and more people are struggling with medical debt. Through this initiative, debt can be relieved by helping families return to financial health. From the RIP website, they share: nearly 50% of U.S. adults delayed or skipped medical care due to the high costs of treatment; 50% of U.S. adults wouldn't be able to afford an unexpected \$500.00 bill; and – 2/3 of bankruptcies cite medical debt as a leading cause. Let's help! Rev. Jen Lambert of Red Mountain UMC has already been involved with RIP Medical Debt relief and can attest to the miracles when \$10.00 donated purchases \$1,000 in economic relief for those experiencing bankruptcy due to their medical bills.

Turkey & Syria Earthquake Relief

Since February 6th, the day of the first earthquake to strike Turkey and neighboring Syria, national and international news organizations have carried stories of the total devastation and overwhelming numbers of lives lost. Complete cities were leveled, with nothing left. There is a belief that literally hundreds of thousands more lives are buried underneath the rubble. UMCOR has provided financial assistance since day one; volunteers from all over the world have traveled to help dig through the rubble, stone by stone. Miracles have occurred finding some people alive, more than 200 hours after that first quake. A second series of earthquakes hit on February 20th. The official death toll has exceeded 50,000 as of February 24th.

What is notable about all three projects is the ongoing nature of needed support and prayer.

Turkey, Syria, and Ukraine will need support for families to rebuild entire lives – shelter, clothing, food, schools, even businesses – the very economics to make life whole again. Yet in each of those countries, there is one constant – Hope. People “of” hope, living into Hope. All three countries need yes, our financial support, but also our prayers – our continuous prayers as we are taught to do by the God who loves us without ceasing.

In our own country and, in this case, our own states – we know the deafening effects of inflation and how crushing medical debt can be – both for those who have insurance and for the many who do not or who's coverage simply does not address the escalating cost burden. The weight of debt is so great, families must declare bankruptcy and determine a way to survive. *Billie Fidlin*

To learn more about all three mission project focuses for the 2023 Desert Southwest Annual Conference, visit <https://dscumc.org/mission-project>.

WE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL OFFERING ON SUNDAY, JUNE 11

We have a goal of \$3 per church member, \$1 for each mission project.

Refugee Resettlement Task Force

The Morales family has now been in the USA for 13 weeks as of May 4. They are friendly, highly motivated and appreciative of our help. We have assisted them with outings specifically to the grocery store and to various appointments. They are now fully documented. The men both have 30hr/week jobs as bakers and the adult son (Brian) has just been accepted to another job as a short order cook for another 30 hours/week. They go to a Latino Baptist church. We have assisted with a referral to AA for one of the family members. Brian, after some tutoring by Bill Vorhees, passed his driver test and went out and bought himself a car.



We have been seeing the family with a frequency of twice a week. Last week they were here in Green Valley for a cookout at my house along with all our task force people that could attend.

Our goal for this family has been to help them assimilate to this new culture and help them become independent. At this time the disabled daughter, Maryori, is still not in school; we are going to be leaning on LSS to get the school district to move on this. The family with our help has an application in for Maryori to be approved for pickup by the SunRun as she is physically and mentally disabled. If that happens, the family will be independent for transportation.

This summer our task force will be small but, hopefully for us and for the family, our role will be more limited – in providing friendship and help where needed. We had a well advertised open meeting on April 1 for which we only had 5-7 guests. Some of these folks were already engaged in refugee and immigrant work and some came to learn. Nobody signed up to the task force. Nobody from the congregation came except task force folks. LSS has sent us a formal thank you; that card is on the Bulletin Board. Plans for the fall are pending,

David Flatt



The 3rd Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday

In May we donated 115 pounds of food and \$170

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*.



The Sahuarita Food Bank now has a new baler dubbed Captain Crunch. It allows the foodbank to compact cardboard boxes and then they are able to sell it.

What does this mean for you? You can bring your cardboard boxes to the foodbank and they can turn your cardboard into a monetary donation for them.



Borderlands
Produce Rescue

(P.O.W.W.O.W.)
Produce on Wheels With-Out Waste
\$15 for 70 pounds of produce

June 3, 2023 from 6:00 - 9:00

PRAYER LIST

Betty Cupples
Sharon Eaton
George Foster
Virginia Harper
Ken Hartz
Dick Johnson
Shea Johnson
Ray Ketterman
Mike Kilby
Hattie Jo LaFollette

Lee Love
Judy Lyle
Morales Family
Lisa Moon
Brian Morris
Carol Sisk
Joan and Dick Toltzmann
Nancy Trotta
Helen Tull
Lorain Zimmerman

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

Pray with others around our district...

**Desert Southwest Annual Conference
South District
June Prayer Focus**

Bishop & Staff of the Desert Southwest Conference
Staff & Churches of the:
East District, North District and West District

*The Refugee
Resettlement Ministry
Team*

*invites you to pray for
the Morales Family*



In Remembrance



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

*Linda Ketterman
Mort Zimmerman
Sharon Demmons*

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**

6/1 Yervand Mathevosian
6/2 Ed Kesler
6/2 Dan Leithner
6/5 Karen Heim
6/5 Beth Tuttle
6/7 Carson Carr
6/7 Christine Schmidt
6/11 Marilyn Neal
6/13 Pam Hunt
6/13 Art Nelson
6/13 Miriam Schmer
6/14 Jackie McDonnell
6/15 Kent Jehle
6/15 Rick Oxenford
6/17 Wendell Howell
6/17 Krista Ortega
6/17 Betty Phillips
6/17 Pat Shipman
6/18 Joan Anderson
6/21 Shirley Sovis



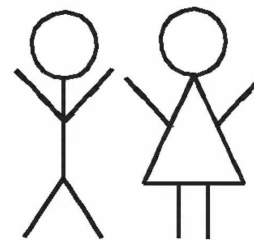
6/22 Betty Simmons
6/23 Stacy Brown
6/24 Linda Fowler
6/25 Sheila Guschel
6/27 Judy Fost
6/27 Jane Furtwangler
6/28 Gordon Jensen
6/29 Paul Heim



6/1 Sandy and Barry Ehrman
6/8 Janet and Jeffrey Smith
6/10 Alice and Dan Nielsen
6/10 Susan and Bill Voorhees
6/13 Sharon and Gary Icenogle
6/16 Judy and Bruce Miller
6/17 Janice and Stafford Smith
6/18 Judy and Denny Fost
6/18 Sheila and Ron Guschel
6/18 Shirley and Chuck Nelson
6/20 Shirley and Bill Gibson
6/27 Linda and Jack Adams
6/27 Susan and Bob Coder

Two Strangers Meet

His hands were dirty,
His jeans were ripped.
His pleas for help at my gate were preceded
By the stench on his clothes and on his skin from his wandering
In the desert.
He had an unrelenting thirst,
And his belly was empty.
He was tired, so tired
And his feet were sore.
He was reaching out to me in sheer desperation.
Despite his fears and despite my own,
What I saw in his eyes and he in mine, was trust.
For me, an opportunity to help a fellow traveler on the highway of life;
For him, a needed respite.
His place of origin, his home, Guatemala
His destination, his new home, New York City.
His journey, a long one.
In his heart burned a desire so strong he could not be deterred.
On faith alone he was, against all odds, on a path to a better life.
His determination and desperation opened my heart and opened my mind,
Bringing me the richness that comes from helping a stranger along the way.
He never knew the blessings he brought: hope, faith, trust.
I think of him often.
I hope he arrived safely at his destination.
I hope that along the way he, too, found that same spark of richness that he had brought to me.
Two strangers, one brief meeting and the world shifts, ever so slightly.



melinda louise

*Thank you to Julie Donnelly for submitting this poem from
a local resident and writer, Melinda Louise.*

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 July/August
edition is
June 15

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

Thank you!



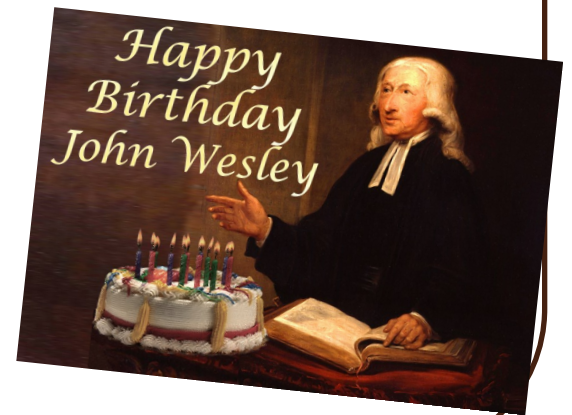
Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

What's Happening

Dates to Remember

June 3	P.O.W.W.O.W Borderlands Produce (6:00-9:00)
June 7	Handbell Choir's 1st Practice
June 15	Newsletter Deadline
June 15 – 17	Desert Southwest Conference Annual Conference
June 18	Food Bank Sunday
June 18	New Member Orientation
June 28	John Wesley's Birthday (1775)
July 4	Church Office Closed
July 4	Fourth of July Indoor Picnic



Every Week at UMCGV

Mondays

Monday Funday at 1:00 pm in Johnson Hall

Tuesdays

Knit and Sew and Prayer Shawl at 9:00 am in the Narthex and Johnson Hall

Wednesdays

Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at 7:00 am at Manuel's Restaurant

Handbell Choir Practice at 1:00 pm in the 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 9:30

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.