

United Methodist Church of Green Valley
Methodist Messenger



February 2024



From the Pastor's Desk

Recently, I heard a news headline speaking about the crisis among many in our world, who experience extended periods of isolation and loneliness. The article went on to say, that extended periods of isolation and loneliness can have the same adverse health effects as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. I have since learned the original report came from the U.S. Surgeon General in the spring of 2023. This is astounding to consider. Further learning would reveal that among those who experience some of the greatest amounts of loneliness and isolation are the youth and elderly. Specifically, 6.5 million senior adults experience isolation and often as a result depression.

I'm sure by now many of you are saying, "you are preaching to the choir pastor". I know that many among us know this firsthand. I also recognize the important work you have done to make a difference in this matter. I want to tell you how proud I am of you for some of the steps you are taking to create life giving friendships and connectivity in our community. For a decade now HOPE Lunch has created a place where people can get not only a healthy meal, but a place where people can connect with one another. Our amazing team of folks (that is always open for more servant-volunteers) are always outnumbered by people from the community who do not attend our church. I commend you for this tremendous work and hope and pray we can continue to connect with people in our community.

Like HOPE Lunch our Monday Funday group creates a place where people can simply connect with friends to play board games, to be together, to laugh, to have fun. This ministry of love, like HOPE Lunch is connecting with many from our community who do not attend our church. This past Monday I counted 19 people gathered around four different tables, playing games together. I saw smiles, I heard laughter (among some very competitive faces as well).

Sometimes I think we overthink ministry. We think it needs to be some holy somber activity that we participate in like a Bible study, a new worship service or a prayer group. I think you have shown the way, UMCGV, by simply loving your neighbors. By sharing in some fun, laughter, food, and fellowship you have made lives more full and complete. Keep loving your neighbor, keep inviting people to lunch and Monday Funday and maybe one day even to worship.

I am proud of you church. I give thanks to God for you and the life together we share.



Pastor Doug

Join us on Sunday Mornings

**In-Person and
Online at umcgv.org**

8:00 am
(Weekly Communion)

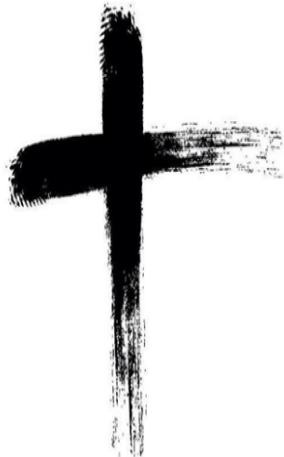
10:15 am



Join us for Fellowship on Zoom

Sundays after the 10:15 Service

Contact the church office for the zoom link.



**Ash Wednesday
Service**

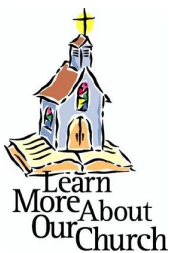
February 14

**Noon
in the Sanctuary**



**Maundy Thursday
Service**

**March 28
4:00 pm
in the Sanctuary**



**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.

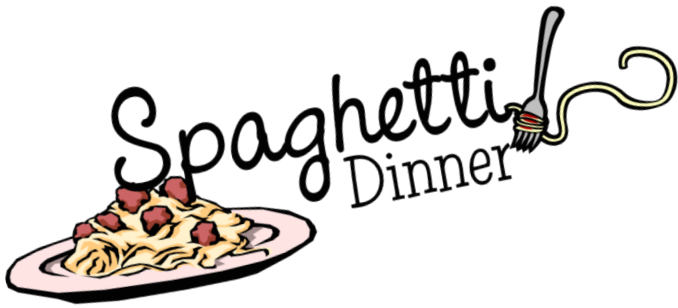
This month it will be on February 18



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*



Spaghetti Dinner and Town Hall Meeting

The United Methodist Men are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner on

**February 17th, Saturday
4:00 - 6:00 pm**

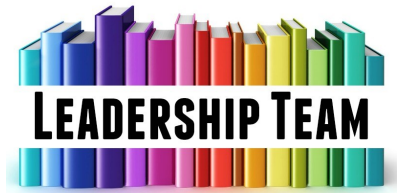
Cost: \$10

To help celebrate Valentine's Day, the United Methodist men are sponsoring the second annual spaghetti supper on Saturday, February 17 at 4 PM.

The leadership team is planning a Townhall meeting in conjunction with the supper. Food, fellowship, and information all at the same time. What could be better? Plan on joining your church family on February 17!

2024 Leadership Team

We are excited to welcome this year's Leadership Team. Their names are always listed on the back of each bulletin and in every monthly newsletter. We give thanks for each of them please keep them in your prayers as we work together in the coming year.



Your 2024 Team Members are Denny Fost, Guy Jackson, Penny Jansmann, Doris Miller, Jean Neely, Don Scarlett, Mary Beth Stensgard, Gene Ulrich and Robin Wiebe.

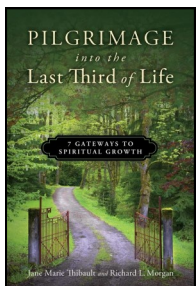


Human Relations Day (Special Sunday)

Thank you to everybody who donated to this Special Sunday Offering.

Together we collected \$625!

You can still donate by [Clicking Here](#)



New Class: "Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life" BEGINS FEBRUARY 1

Pastor Ken will be leading a new 7 week study starting February 1 at 10:00 am. The book is called, "Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life" and is available in the church office for \$12.

On Super Bowl Sunday
February 11th,
let's tackle hunger together!



You are invited to bring \$1 and one item for the Green Valley Food Bank. We will join churches across the country to do our part to eliminate hunger in our community and the world.

TIHAN POZ Cafe

Our church is serving
POZ Cafe February 15th
at St. Marks Presbyterian Church at 3809 Alvernon in Tucson.



We are asked to bring for the Care Packages:
100 dental flosses
100 containers of hand lotion (about 8-10 oz)
300 disposable razors

All items need to be at the church by Sunday, February 11th.

Cash donations would help defray the cost of Care Packages not donated or the meal, which our portion is about \$300.

Five or six people from our church are asked to serve from 9:30 to about 1:30 pm at POZ Cafe which is not difficult but requires standing/walking most of the time.

Volunteers need to call the church office. We need to submit names of all volunteers before the event.

Check our website for more information about POZ Café and Tihan. umcgv.org/missions



ESPERANZA MEMORY CAFÉ

February 8 at 2:00 pm
"Happy Valentine's Day"

RSVP at 520-625-4712



The American Association of University Women - Green Valley is holding its annual rally to End Violence against Women and Girls on **February 10** from 10 to 11a.m. at the intersection of Esperanza and La Canada.



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

This month will be on February 18

***In January we donated
167 pounds of food and \$65***

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 Penny
Project**
**Our Collection
Containers have a
NEW LOOK!**

Thank you to all who help us support 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 people's lives.

There are canisters with a **NEW LOOK**
in the narthex and also in the office for your
donations. Thank you!



GVCC Foundation's Student Sunday was January 7



Back Row: Lilly Riley, Alexis, Allen, Gabriella Quintero, Josh Alvarado, Alberto Leon, Jordan Limon, Nathan Lyon, and Naiya Shoals

Front Row: Alena Black, Brianna Aruffe, Amaya, Barnes, Rhiley Grant, Abigail Pannell, Addison Sanora, Taylor Lansky, Mariah Farmer, Jacqueline Peyron, Annika Dillemath

Not pictured: Jeffrey Handlong, Katrina Rodriquez and Autumn White.

On January 7, 2024 at the United Methodist Church of Green Valley welcomed 19 current scholarship recipients and one former recipient to the 10:15 worship service. The Rev. Jerry Haas officiated at the service which was focused on the students and education.

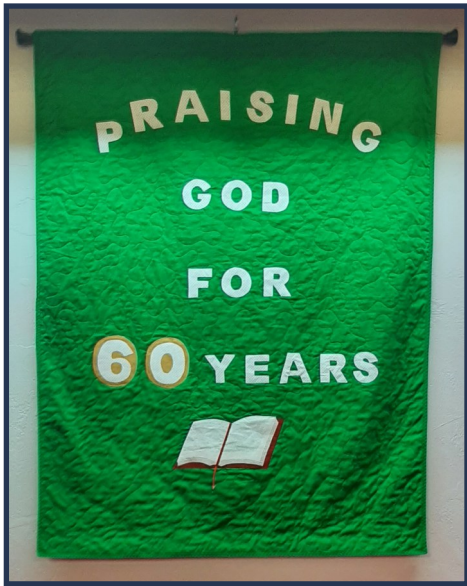
After scholarship chair, Tom Bright, welcomed the students they had the opportunity to speak. The 18 current students and one 2023 graduate introduced themselves and told a little about themselves, including what university they were attending, and what they were studying. They also expressed how much the scholarship meant to them, and how it has impacted their life. Two students who were unable to be present spoke to the congregation by video.

After the worship service, the young women and men stayed to meet and talk with members of the congregation. This was an uplifting and powerful way to start (the New Year)- 2024 – witnessing the enthusiasm and joy and vision of the group.

The GVCC Foundation is honored to be able to help these talented young adults in their pursuit of education. If you would like to know more about how you can help, please go to the UMCGV website where you can find more information about the foundation and how you can contribute to this worthy endeavor.

umcgv.org/gcvv-foundation

Don Scarlett



We had a successful Kick Off for our 60th Year of Ministry in the Green Valley Community

Bishop Carlo A. Rapanut and our District Superintendent Matt Ashley joined us as we worshiped together at the 10:15 service, shared together in our luncheon, and celebrated during our afternoon Service.



Thank you to our Anniversaries Committee for all the time and hard work they did in preparation for our big day. The committee members are Jean Neely, Marilyn Neal, Wilma Reid, Don Scarlett, Nancy Smith, Dave Tobinson and Robin Wiebe. Thank you to Chad Eggen for all his help behind the scenes and putting together the slide show. A Big Thank You to Jean Neely for not only leading the Anniversaries Committee but also creating our beautiful Banner commemorating our Celebration Year.



Rev. Louie Lyon, Pastor Doug, Bishop Carlo & Rev. Matt Ashley




JOIN US FOR
MONDAY FUNDAY
MONDAYS
1:00 - 3:30

“Monday Funday”
Every Monday
1:00 to 3:30
Join us in Johnson Hall to play your favorite table games.
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




Men's Breakfast & Bible Study


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.



CHAIR EXERCISE TO PREVENT FALLING
MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS
10:00 – 10:30 AM
IN JOHNSON HALL



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
February 14 at 9:30 am
in Johnson Hall**

Join us for a Program on
“The Mission and Work of the Community
Food Bank.” Lilia Dawson , Client &
Volunteer Coordinator will be our presenter.

Bring your neighbors and friends!

**Lydia Circle
February 28 at 9:30 am
in the Fireside Room**

“Then Sing My Soul”
Janice and Nancy Smith
Jolleen Biesecker Piano
Johnson Hall
A Sing A Long



With Thanks and Appreciation

The United Methodist Men would like to thank all who
donated to the Green Valley Food Bank in 2023.
Together we collected 1392 pounds of food items and
\$3607. The men appreciate the generosity of our
community of faith. And we challenge ourselves to do
even better in 2024!

*Thank
you!*



**Boot Camp 2024
was a success!**

Thank you Doris Miller and
everybody who attended this great
event. We are looking forward to
when it will be happening again!



**United Methodist Church of Green Valley
Estate/Patio Sales Group
is hosting a Shred-a-thon**

A "Shred-A-Thron" will be held at United Methodist Church of Green Valley on Esperanza and LaCanada in
the north parking lot on **February 17, 2024** starting at 8am to 12 noon. Please enter from LaCanada.

Open to all.

Please remove any CD's/DVD's, and other non shreddable items. No cardboard or trash will be accepted..
Staples in the paper, paper clips and rubber bands are OK. Open to all in the community. Will not accept
paper from businesses. There is no fee for this service, but donations are accepted.

**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

February 2
Chicken Casserole
Caeser Salad
Roll
Peanut Butter Brownies

February 16
Sloppy Joes
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Apple Crisp

Estate & Patio Sale

**February 9th & 10th
8 am to Noon**

194 N. Camino Del Vate, Casa Paloma 2



**Rock
Painting**



Join GV Rocks on

February 8 from 1:00 - 3:00
in the Sunday School Room.

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

Everyone is welcome.

Borderlands Produce



**February 3
8:00 to 11:00**

\$15 for 70 Pounds of Produce

**UMCGV Parking Lot on the
1st Saturday of each month**



SAVE LIFE

**DONATE
BLOOD**

**February 23
7:30 - 1:00**

**www.redcrossblood.org and
enter sponsor code UMCGV**

Now Serving
Cafe Justo
EVERY SUNDAY



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



JUST COFFEE (Café Justo)
\$10 to \$12 a pound, whole bean or ground.

From Around the Conference...



The Initiative for Growth and Vitality

God has called us to be courageous. The Desert Southwest Conference is a connection of lay and clergy leaders extending Christ's presence of love, justice, and hope in a fearful and broken world. Grounded in our Wesleyan heritage, the traditions of the church's past wisdom, and the values that guide the way we live, we are empowered to create a reality of growth and vitality within our ministry settings and surrounding communities.

Through our collective sharing and work together, we have come to understand that each ministry setting is unique and requires a plan for transformation that is authentic to its identity and context. However, we believe there are universal objectives that will help each ministry setting achieve growth and vitality. God calls us with courage to:

Our Values - God is Calling Us Towards:

Living into the vision of being a courageous church, we believe the following values are necessary for growth and vitality.

- **Trust** We believe in God's love and work among us, confidently relying on God and one another.
- **Compassion** We see the image of God in all of creation, expressing the depth of love Jesus shared with the world.
- **Relationship** We build grace-filled relationships with our neighbors - becoming involved, serving with, and creating new ministry partnerships - acknowledging we exist for more than just ourselves.
- **Authenticity** We live into our identity as followers of Jesus while upholding the diverse expression of God's calling in each ministry setting.
- **Boldness** We take risks to follow where Christ leads us.
- **Collaboration** We share learning together and beyond ourselves, relying on one another's strength, abilities, resources, and courage.

For more about the vision statement for our conference, visit dscumc.org/vision/



Border Community Alliance


NOGALES CROSS BORDER TOUR... Have you ever been to Nogales, Mexico? If so, have you ever gone past the pharmacies, the dentists, and the souvenir shoes a few blocks away from the wall? If the answer to both questions is "no," consider going on a Border Community Alliance tour of the city. Nogales, Mexico, has a population of approximately 400,000. There are more than 100 maquiladoras (US-owned factories) in the city. Thousands of people and an enormous amount of commerce go through the ports of entry everyday – legally and safely. The tour includes visits to some of the nonprofits, as well as an overview of Nuevo Nogales ("New Nogales") to get a sense of how dynamic the city really is, despite all the bad press. Cross Border tours start in Tubac with a brief orientation, followed by a short drive to Nogales, Arizona, where we park and walk across "the line" to a van with a professional driver on the Mexican side. Expert guidance is provided by Alma Cota, an amazing leader and teacher. The tour ends at La Roca Restaurant with coffee and flan and a chance to talk with a member of the U.S. Consulate staff. Upcoming tour dates are February 6 and February 15. You can register by calling 520.398.3229 or going online to bordercommunityalliance.org/tours.
Jerry Haas, BCA Senior Advisor, 520.449.0327

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Anderson
Annie Brinkoff
Judy Downing
Carolyn Goodrich
Arlene "Griz" Griswold
Virginia Harper
Ken Hartz
Kyle LaFollette
Gary and Janet Logan
Lee Love

Judy Lyle
Jan Marchiniak
Morales Family
Phyllis Neer
Millie Paluch
Joanne Reedy
Helen Tull
Val Wiethorn
Eloise Wilson
Lorain Zimmerman

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

Gary Long, widower of former Pastor Rebecca Oakes Long, offers  congratulations on our 60th anniversary as a congregation. Gary was diagnosed with cancer but is doing well with his treatments. Gary married Brenda several years ago; their address is 1008 Gorsline, El Cajon, CA. 92021.

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.**

Celebration of Life



A Celebration of Life Service for
Mary Gilliam
will be in the Sanctuary on
February 16 at 3:00 pm

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

February Prayer Focus

Christ Church UM, Tucson
Community UMC, Bowie
Duncan UMC

Dear UMCGV Family,

This past Christmas was one of the most challenging times of my life with the passing of my father. Your love, support and kindness sustained me through this difficult time. Words can not begin to express my gratitude for all the love and kindness you shared with me.



Deanne Handlong

In Remembrance



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

*Mary Gilliam
Laurie Anderson*

2/3 Dan Nielsen
2/3 Lee Love
2/4 Ronald Allen
2/4 Vern Owens, Jr.
2/7 Larry Ruhl
2/8 Fran Gordon
2/8 Caroline Hewatt
2/8 Hugh Sanford
2/11 Tammy Mathevosian
2/14 Sandy Ehrman
2/14 Carrie England
2/15 Glenn Neely
2/17 Audrey Howland
2/17 Bob Coder
2/18 Helen Tull
2/19 Bill Voorhees
2/20 Art Weidner
2/21 Ruth White
2/21 Jerry Carr



2/22 Susan Montello
2/22 David Schmidt
2/24 Guy Jackson
2/27 Joan Caldwell

February anniversaries

2/1 Barb and Paul Potterton
2/4 Linda and Larry Ruhl
2/5 Diane and Max Pierson
2/7 Sabbina and George Nelson
2/12 Joann and Jim Reedy
2/16 Ella and Mario Rawls
2/18 Kathy and Bud Ingalsbe
2/18 Catherine and Earnest Ivie
2/19 Jerry and Carson Carr
2/24 Patricia and Ivan Fisher
2/26 Carol and James Greer

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 March edition is
February 15

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

Thank you!

Opportunities to Give Online

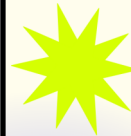
Visit our website at
umcgv.org/ways-to-give

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



Join our Media Team!

They are looking for volunteers to help create the worship slides.
They can teach you!

[Contact Chad or the Church Office](#)

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 Schellhaas - *Finance Administrator*

Deanne Handlong - *Office Administrator*

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

Bill Voorhees- *Media Team Members*

Everyone - *Ministers*

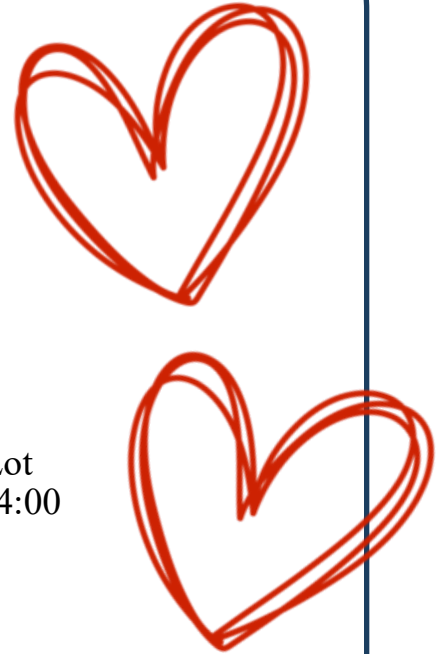
2024 Leadership Team

Denny Fost, Guy Jackson, Penny Jansmann, Doris Miller, Jean Neely, Don Scarlett,
Mary Beth Stensgard, Gene Ulrich and Robin Wiebe

What's Happening

February

February 1	UMM Board Meeting
February 1	Pastor Ken's 7 week Book Study Begins
February 2	HOPE Lunch
February 3	P.O.W.O.W Borderlands Produce
February 8	Esperanza Memory Café
February 13	UMW Board Meeting
February 14	UMW Unit Meeting
February 14	Ash Wednesday service at 4:00 pm
February 15	Church Leadership Team
February 16	HOPE Lunch
February 17	Patio Sales Shred-a-Thon in North Parking Lot
February 17	Spaghetti Dinner and Town Hall Meeting at 4:00
February 20	GVCC Foundation Meeting
February 22	Caring Through Dementia Forum
February 23	Blood Drive
February 28	Lydia Circle
February 29	Happy Leap Day!



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
Manuals Restaurant

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

H A P P Y
Valentine's Day


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.