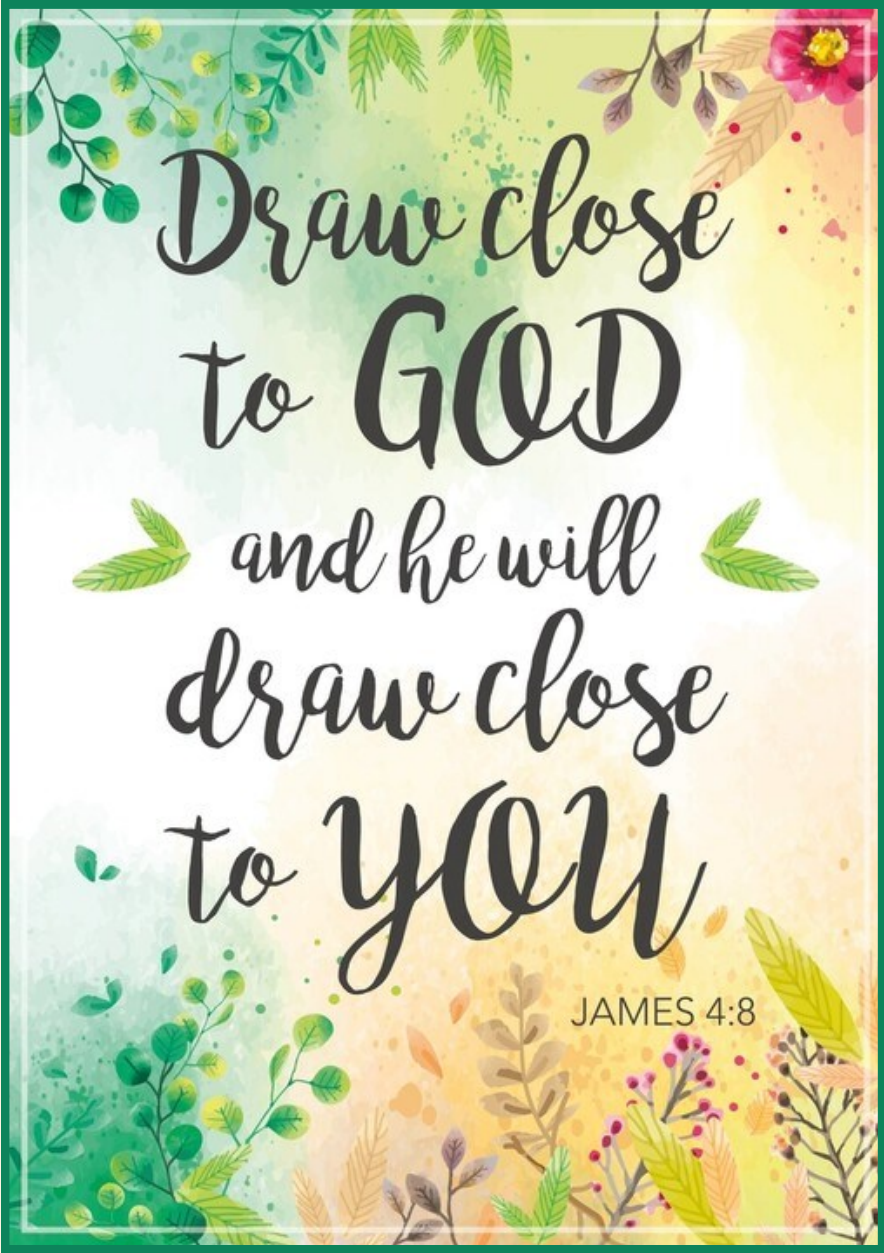


United Methodist Church of Green Valley

Methodist Messenger

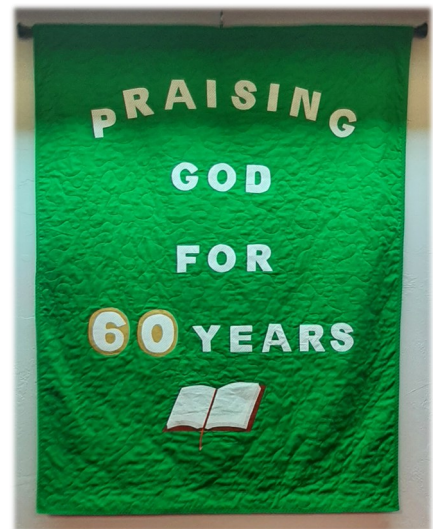


March 2024



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

What a great celebration it was! On Sunday January 28, we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of our first worship service held in 1964. It was a great day for which I am thankful to Jean Neely and her team of faithful volunteers. As we reflected on our beginnings, I wonder if the first participants in that first worship service imagined us being where we are today? I don't expect they could have dreamt that our community would be nearly 60,000 people between Green Valley and Sahuarita. I don't imagine that they could have ever conceived of online worship, that is, between 50-100 people watching church online every week. Could they have ever conceived of ministries like HOPE lunch feeding over 200 people each month? Did they dream of a Caring Through Dementia ministry or Refugee Resettlement ministry? Did they even dream of a church that would one day start a second church in the Green Valley/Sahuarita area? It has been quite a road that the saints have traveled over the years.



It leads me to wonder what the next 60 years will hold? It is very exciting to consider, yet overwhelming at the same time. None of us will be here 60 years from now, but I do trust that the church in some form will be. Do you believe that? The church was born at Pentecost with the coming of the holy spirit over the disciples that had gathered together in Jerusalem. That means this thing called the church, was God's idea.

We have the opportunity to plant seeds today that will be harvested tomorrow. What are the seeds you are planting that will bear the fruit of the future? Sixty years from now, what will they say about us when they look back to 2024? I pray that those who look back will see our hope for the future, and our faithfulness to the work of the church.

Pastor Doug

Pastor Doug



*Join us on
Sunday
Mornings*

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

8:00 am
(Weekly Communion)

10:15 am



UMCOR SUNDAY
With your help, UMCOR supports humanitarian relief and recovery efforts around the world.

100%

UMCOR Sunday donations cover UMCOR's operation costs so that 100% of donations received for emergency appeals go directly to communities in need.

This year UMCOR Sunday is on March 10th
Special envelopes will be in our bulletins and are available at our Communications Corner.

MAUNDY THURSDAY



MARCH 28
4:00 PM

Easter Sunday

6:00 Sunrise Service

Breakfast after Sunrise Service

8:00 Worship with Communion

10:15 Worship



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



Judi and Jim Nibbelink, Debbie Forney, Kathy and Jon Wibbels



Estela Platt



Women's Bible Discussion Group is Back!

Begins on March 12
Tuesdays, 1:00 in the Fireside Room

The Women's Bible Discussion Group will be starting back up March 12, Tuesday, at 1p.m. in the fireside room. As with the first two series, there is no book to buy, but please bring your favorite translation of the Bible. And once more, there is no homework; each week will focus on its own scripture, so if you miss a week or two, you can't fall behind.

We've shared reading aloud, thought – provoking and lively discussions, as well as our joys and cares. We'd love to have you join us! Please indicate on the 'connect card' on Sundays or call the church office if you plan to attend/bring a friend, so we'll have enough handouts. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Maglott.



Mexican Dinner to benefit
El Mesias UMC, Nogales, AZ

March 23, 2023 at 5:00 pm
In Johnson Hall

Tickets will be on sale soon!

\$10.00 each

Fun, Mexican Food, Pinata, Music
Come Join the fun and help raise
money for our sister church, El Mesias

TODAY Learn About Our Church

3rd Sunday of Each Month

Join Pastor Doug in the Fireside Room
(off of the Narthex)
following the 10:15 Worship Service



All Church Breakfast

March 16 at 8:30 am

"The Doors of Malawi"
by Tamra Jackson

Tickets on sale in Narthex

Mission Possible



Three years ago, when I first joined what was then known as “Church Council” as it’s chair, I was asked to be a member of a committee that would be working on “A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness” that we now know as SAS or Simplified Accountable Structure. The book’s title was “**Mission Possible**”, and I was intrigued by the opportunities for our church. For well over a year the committee moved forward toward the goal of simplifying our council structure and yet still providing the best possible leadership for our church.

Slowly our church moved in the direction of SAS and last October our Church Conference implemented our first steps which included electing a Leadership Team. Our church is no longer “slowed down” by endless meetings but is instead working toward becoming even more answerable and subsequently freeing added church members for ministry in the community as well as missions in our world.

Please feel free to contact any of our team members (Denny Fost, Guy Jackson, Penny Jansmann, Doris Miller, Jean Neely, Don Scarlett, Mary Beth Stensgard, Gene Ulrich & Robin Wiebe) with questions, suggestions, or thoughts as our church continues to move forward. *Penny Jansmann, Leadership Team Chair*

General Conference Presentation

March 10 and 24 at 9:00 am in the Sunday School Room (between services)



Many UM’s recognize that the United Methodist Church is quite methodical, planning and organizing everything ahead of time. Among the tools we use for planning is the General Conference, a global meeting that happens every four years (unless COVID intervenes). The next General Conference will happen in Charlotte, NC this spring. Over eight hundred delegates from around the world will gather to decide on organization, policy and theology matters. Importantly, only the General Conference may speak for the church; not an individual member, pastor or Bishop. Essentially, General Conference edits two of our most important books, The Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions. The Discipline contains the organizational and policy requirements of the UMC and how we do them, while the Book of Resolutions holds the collection of material that describes the UMC’s position on a wide variety of issues important to society. Both of these books are changed regularly by the General Conference.

We will be offering an opportunity to hear more about General Conference for all those interested, including how delegates are chosen, how the meetings are run and expectations for the Charlotte meeting. Plan now to attend information sessions during the nine AM hour on two Sundays, March 10 and 24. Jim Nibbelink, who has been a delegate to General Conference six times will share “what it is and how it works” for us. In addition, Jim will review another conference of the UMC, the Jurisdictional Conference, which also meets every four years and is responsible for electing Bishops for the church. Questions will be welcomed, so come and join us to learn and to explore these vital aspects of your church!

Financial Preparing for the Last Chapter

March 20, 2024 at 10:00 am



Becoming a widow(er), in the future, will be devastating. We can help with financial ideas, to do now to relieve the anxiety for later. Welcoming married couples, partners, and life-long roommates.

There will be a seminar held Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 10:00 am in Johnson Hall. There is no need to sign-up or notify the church office. If you are interested or have questions, please attend. There will be coffee and tea available.



“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.

CHAIR EXERCISE TO PREVENT FALLING

MONDAYS AND
THURSDAYS

10:00 - 10:30 AM
IN JOHNSON HALL



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



**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.



Bible Study & Breakfast for Men

The men of UMC^{GV} 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.

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



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.



United Methodist Women



UMW Unit Meeting

March 13 at 9:30 am
in Johnson Hall

Join us for a Program on
“Learn what makes CPAC tick!”
Presented by Chris Ascroft,
Executive Director

Bring your neighbors and friends!

Lydia Circle

March 27 at 9:30 am
in the Fireside Room

“Hospice - An Overview”

by Jackie Wade,
Volunteer
Coordinator
for
Gentiva Hospice



2024 Virtual Thrift



As you know we are no longer having our United Methodist Women’s Big Thrift Sale. We are asking you to donate to United Methodist Women for one or more of the designated missions. We will highlight two of the missions each Sunday over five weeks which began on February 18th.

You can make your donation as the mission is highlighted or you can make a donation now or at the end of the five weeks. Make your check out to United Methodist Women, put the mission in the memo line (or leave it blank) and mail it to the church, drop it to off at the mail slot at the church or leave it in the offering plate. Please note on the envelope that it is for United Methodist Women if you are not already using one of our designated envelopes. Our goal is to raise a \$1000.00 dollars for each mission. The missions we have designated are McCurdy School, He Intends Victory, Valley Assistance Services, Red Bird Mission, Refugee Resettlement Ministry, UMCOR, Youth on Their Own, St. Andrews Children’s Clinic, Arizona Justice for our Neighbors and Mingus Mountain Camp and Retreat Center. Thank you to those who offered their suggestions for ministries and missions.

UMW is looking forward to another successful “Virtual Thrift”. We will keep you up-to-date on how it is going. If you have questions, contact Jean Neely.



Refugee Resettlement
Ministry





The February POZ Cafe provided many people living with HIV toiletries, gift cards, a nutritious meal and a time to just relax and enjoy each other thanks to many people of UMC GV. Your donations helped supply items not available to them with Food Stamps. Thank you for your generosity of disposable razors, dental floss, hand lotion and money to defray the cost of our portion of the meal and gift cards. Thank You to Joe & Jody Davison for delivering the Care Package items on Wednesday. Also Thank You to Nora Nouvet and Amy Dean who accompanied me and served at POZ Cafe on the 15th. *Judy Argetsinger*



The United Methodist Men would like to thank everyone who attended making their 2nd Annual the Spaghetti Dinner a success!



The 3rd Sunday of each month is Food Bank Sunday

This month will be on March 17

In February we donated 271 pounds of food and \$416.76

Thank you for supporting our local Food Bank and Community especially on Souper Bowl Sunday!



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

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!

**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

March 1

Beef Stroganoff Casserole
Green Beans
Tossed Salad
Roll
Sopapilla Cheesecake Dessert

March 15

Ham
Cheesy Potatoes
Sweet Slaw
Roll
Lemon Cake

Borderlands Produce



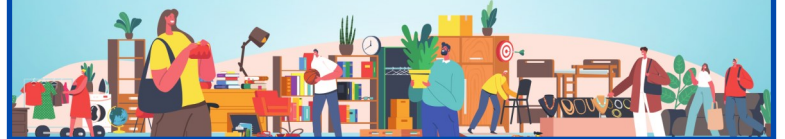
**March 2
8:00 to 11:00**

\$15 for 70 Pounds of Produce

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

Estate & Patio Sale

**March 8 & 9
8 am to Noon
2857 S. Calle Flamenco**



Esperanza
HOPE
Memory Café

**Esperanza Memory Café
March 14, at 2:00 pm**

An innovative program of support for caregivers and those experiencing memory loss, memory café provides a safe place for socializing and fun.

Our theme for March is St. Patrick's Day.
Date and time: Thursday, **March 14, at 2:00 pm**
in Johnson Hall.

It helps our planning if you can let the office know you're coming – call 520.625.4712. I'll be wearing green; how about you? *Jerry Haas*



Rock Painting

Join GV Rocks on

March 14 from 1:00 - 3:00
in the Sunday School Room.

Enjoy painting rocks together along with enjoying some fun and laughter! Everyone is welcome.

**Caring Through
Dementia
March 28th at 2:00 pm**



The monthly public forum on dementia features Teepa Snow, a National Alzheimer's Association staff person via DVD.

These forums are free, and they're scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month at 2:00 pm in Johnson Hall. Join us **March 28th at 2:00 pm** for input and discussion. *Jerry Haas*



Border Community Alliance

Methodist Cross Border Tour March 25

Join others from our church for a special Methodist tour of Nogales, Sonora Mexico. We'll visit El Divino Redentor, the Mexican Methodist church partner, and meet Pastor Francisco. We'll stop at Casa de la Misericordia, a shelter for asylum seekers; enjoy lunch at Burrito Hass, and tour Nuevo Nogales where many of the factories and newer homes are located. We'll also visit ARSOBO, a fascinating nonprofit making resources for inclusivity. Finally, we'll have coffee and flan with a representative of the US Consulate.

Contact Jerry Haas (jndhaas@gmail.com) for more information and to register.

Other BCA Events in March:

For more information, visit their website: bordercommunityalliance.org or call the office 520.398.3229

MARCH 1 – “The Photography of Place: the Art of Visual Storytelling” with Bill Steen.

MARCH 3 – Tubac Art & History Tour – led by Nancy Valentine

MARCH 26 – The Renaissance of Nogales, AZ – tour

MARCH 28 – The US Border Patrol: Roles & Responsibilities – by a member of the Border Patrol

Is God Calling You to Service at Your Church?

An Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries class is being offered Saturdays, **May 4th and 11th** at St John's UMC in Tucson (from 9 am to 3 pm both days). Upon registration, more detailed information about the class will be provided. Registration is open at:

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



Lay Servant Ministries is a program to educate and empower the laity to roles of leadership, caring and communications in the church and community.

The first class in "Introduction to Lay Servant Ministries" is offered 4-5 times a year in the conference. Also offered are Advanced Courses that cover many topics of interest in our three focus areas of leadership, caring and communications. One is allowed to take advanced courses at any time, although we do encourage the Introduction (Basic) class first. Each course is 10 hours in length and can be in 3.5 hour sessions or two 5 hour sessions (or other appropriate timeframe. This will be described in the advertisement and registration document. Attendance at all class times is mandatory for credit to be given.

Once the Introduction class and one Advanced course are taken, one is designated a Certified Lay Servant. An Annual report is required each Fall and is due to your church for your annual church conference which is usually held in the fall. A requirement of completing at least one Advanced Course every 3 years is also required to maintain status.

Questions??? Contact one of the Co-Directors for the South District:

Gretchen Lofgren
glofgren22@gmail.com

Kelly Deyoe
kjdeyoe@cox.net

Openings:

A Writing Retreat for Connecting to Spirit, Clarity and Others

Saturday, April 6, 2024



The Retreat

The ancient, spiritual practice of writing connects us with God, brings clarity and discernment, and offers a way to minister to others. During this retreat, Psalms of praise and lament will serve as prompts for writing, as will selections from contemporary poetry and prayer. Resources for journaling will be shared as well as some ideas about writing for worship and for publication. Additional resources for continuing practice and education will also be offered. The goal is to connect you to God, and to guide and encourage you in your writing.



Our Guide

Larry J. Peacock is a retired United Methodist pastor and former Director of the Franciscan Spiritual Center in Portland, Oregon. Prior to coming to Portland, he was the Executive Director of Rolling Ridge Retreat and Conference Center in North Andover, MA., and served churches in Manchester (England), Michigan, and California. He is author of *Openings – A Daybook of Saints, Sages, Psalms and Prayer Practices*, and *The Living Nativity: Preparing for Christmas with Saint Francis*, both published by The Upper Room. Larry has written numerous resources for worship and devotional magazines, and led a wide variety of retreats, often for the Academy for Spiritual Formation. Larry enjoys living in Portland with his wife, writer Anne Broyles, and delights in his children and grandchildren.

Schedule, Format, Registration

Saturday, April 6, 2024.

In person at St. Francis UMC, 4625 E. River Road, Tucson, AZ. 85718. Registration begins at 8:30 AM, Mountain Standard Time. Cost: \$50 per person (includes lunch).

Online via Zoom at your home or with others at selected locations around the Conference. Cost: \$25 per person.

Use this link to register <https://dscumc.org/event/hybrid-writing-retreat/>

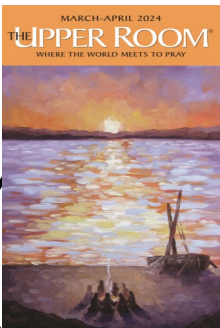


PRAYER LIST

Joyce Anderson
Annie Brinkhoff
Judy Downing
Carolyn Goodrich
Arlene "Griz" Griswold
Danita Gross
Virginia Harper
Ken Hartz
Kyle LaFollette
Karen LaFrance-Ball
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.*



March/April Upper Rooms

are now available in the
Church
Office or at the
Communications Corner.

Large prints are also available.

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.**

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

March Prayer Focus

El Mesias UMC, Nogales
First UMC, Bisbee
First UMC, Eloy



Prayer Shawls Available

Blessed Prayer Shawls are available anytime during office hours. If you know someone who would be blessed by a handmade prayer shawl, please stop by and take one.

A Lenten Reflection...

Give up complaining; focus on gratitude

Give up harsh judgments; think kindly thoughts

Give up worry; trust divine Providence

Give up discouragement; be full of hope

Give up bitterness; turn to forgiveness

Give up hatred; return good for evil

Give up negativism; be positive

Give up pettiness; become mature

Give up jealousy; pray for trust





3/1 Steve Sisk	3/18 Elaine LeVay
3/1 Martha Cole	3/19 April Garrett
3/3 Jean Ross	3/20 Lisa Moon
3/3 Paula Thomas	3/28 Ken Flewellin
3/4 Kyle LaFollette	3/28 Juanita Kauffman
3/5 Winnie Pastore	3/29 Carolyn Goodrich
3/7 Sabbina Nelson	(Happy 102nd Birthday!)
3/8 Tamra Jackson	3/29 Pastor Doug Handlong
3/8 Brad Smith	3/30 Gini Sears
3/9 Dick Keidel	3/30 Ken Hartz
3/11 Norma Bruce	

HAPPY Anniversary

3/8 Sandy & Ken Bensen
3/12 Betsey & Lloyd Medearis
3/17 Elsie & John Divjak
3/18 Brenda & Tony Zenan
3/30 Jan & Doug Bolstad
3/30 Jean & Glenn Neely

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.



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

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



**The Newsletter
Deadline**
for our April
edition is
March 15

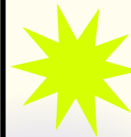
Please send your articles and pictures to
office.umcgv@gmail.com

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.



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 (chair), Doris Miller, Jean Neely, Don Scarlett, Mary Beth Stensgard, Gene Ulrich and Robin Wiebe

What's Happening

March

- March 1 HOPE Lunch
- March 2 Borderlands Produce
- March 7 UMM Board Meeting
- March 10 General Conference Presentation
- March 12 Women's Bible Study Discussion begins
- March 12 UMW Board Meeting
- March 13 UMW Unit Meeting
- March 14 Esperanza Memory Café
- March 15 Newsletter Deadline
- March 15 HOPE Lunch
- March 16 All Church Breakfast
- March 17 Food Bank Sunday
- March 17 "Learn About our Church" in Fireside Room
- March 20 Financially Preparing for the Last Chapter
- March 21 Church Leadership Team Meeting
- March 23 El Mesias Fiesta Dinner
- March 25 Cross Border Tour with BCA
- March 27 Lydia Circle
- March 28 Caring Through Dementia Forum
- March 28 Maundy Thursday Service at 4:00
- March 31 *Happy Easter!*



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



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.

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