



The Chino Valley Chimes

January 2017



Happening this month:

- Jan 2 ~ Office Closed
- Jan 4 ~ Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Jan 4 ~ UMW
- Jan 6 ~ Soul Sisters
- Jan 7 ~ Choir Retreat
- Jan 9 ~ Life Line Screening
- Jan 10 ~ Dine at Aroma's
- Jan 11 ~ SPRC
- Jan 12 ~ Holy Huddle
- Jan 15 ~ Pioneer Home Service
- Jan 18 ~ Trustees
- Jan 18 ~ Finance
- Jan 25 ~ Ad Council

- ◇ **Staff Meeting—
Mondays, 8-9am**
- ◇ **Adult Study—
Mondays at 5pm**
- ◇ **Choir Rehearsals—
Wednesdays at 6pm**

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An Invitation from the Bishop

Recent events in our Conference, in the Western Jurisdiction, and in the General Church have prompted conversations and concern in our United Methodist congregations in the Desert Southwest Conference. Many persons have expressed their desire for clarity and explanations and an opportunity to share their feelings and opinions regarding topics such as human sexuality, interpretation of scripture, the Book of Discipline, the Social Principles, challenges to church unity and possible schism, and our future as a United Methodist Church.

Because these are very important issues that many persons want to discuss, I am inviting you and your congregation to join me in a time of Holy Huddle on the Unity of the Church. Holy Huddles will offer us the opportunity to engage in listening to and hearing one another as we share our concerns and thoughts about human sexuality and the church. In these Huddles, my role is to listen to your concerns, to share my perspective as your bishop, and to respond to questions you may have about any topic of concern. I will strive to create a safe space where we will be able to speak and listen with respect for others and pray together for our United Methodist Church in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

You are invited to a Holy Huddle with Bishop Hoshibata on January 12, from 2-4:30pm at the Prescott United Methodist Church. Call the church office for more information or to sign up to car pool to Prescott.

A Winter Note about the Office

The weather will soon turn snowy and icy. Our office staff may not always be able to be in the office by 8:00 am, Monday-Thursday. Because of this, we make the following suggestions for your safety and protection.

If you are coming to the office before 10:00 am, call first to be sure someone is here and the office is open. (If the weather is really bad, call any time before you come in.) If you phone the office and do not get an answer, please leave a message. We will return the call as soon as possible.

From the Pastor



All four Gospels speak of Jesus' baptism. Luke's version however, is a little different than the others.

The other three Gospel writers tell the story as artists during the Middle Ages often depicted Jesus' baptism...as a public event. A crowd of people who have come to be baptized by John are standing in or near the Jordan River. Jesus is standing waist deep in water.

John the Baptist is standing next to Jesus and pointing to Him, as if to say, "This is the one for whom we have been waiting!" or, in the words of the Gospel writer John, "*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world!*"

Symbolically, just above Jesus' head in these paintings, is the Holy Spirit, drawn as a dove, descending on Jesus. Both in the written texts and in the paintings, the dove is a physical symbol of the invisible Spirit of God.

In all four Gospel versions we are told that the Spirit descends on Jesus, "like a dove."

Remember, this is symbolism. The Holy Spirit is not a bird.

Luke and the other apostles use the dove as a metaphor for the Spirit's coming into our lives.

Actually, it is a beautiful metaphor when you think about it. Have you ever seen a dove descend and land? They land much better than the clumsy great herons. A dove is graceful, gentle and quiet. That's key! The implication of the metaphor is that, that is the way the Holy Spirit will enter into our lives. The Holy Spirit came to Jesus graciously, gentle and quietly....but the difference in Luke's version is that it was a private experience.

That is why Luke's account is different than the other three gospels. The other writers imply that the Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism, apparently when He was still in the water, surrounded by people, just like those beautiful paintings from the Middle Ages. Luke, however says, "*Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove.*" Which means that the Epiphany, this special presence of God in this event, came to Jesus when he was by Himself, praying. In other words, it wasn't a public event. It was a personal and private experience. No one else saw it. No one else heard that voice from heaven. Jesus came out of the water, went off by Himself and prayed. That is when His call to ministry happened.

Personally, I appreciate all four accounts of Jesus' baptism in the Gospels. It's always a good thing to get different perspectives of the same event. Matthew, Mark and John remind us that each person's baptism welcomes him or her into the body of Christ, the Church. Baptism is a public witness of a person's commitment to Christ. At a person's baptism the church commits to helping the new convert to grow in the Christian faith, while also committing to work together for mission to the world empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Luke reminds us that baptism also has a personal impact on the life of the believer. Baptism says to each of us that, "You are a child of the covenant." Indeed, it is the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross that seals the New Covenant for us. "*We are not our own, but the Lord's.*"

Consider what this means. We are God's people. We belong to God. As Christians, we are not at the mercy of social values and cultural trends swirling and changing around us. Instead, we are at the mercy of the Gracious triune God, who claims us in the clear cleansing waters of baptism.

Peace and grace,
Pastor Mike



Notes from the Lay Leader



am in awe at the beauty God has created for us. All we have to do is take care of what he has given.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

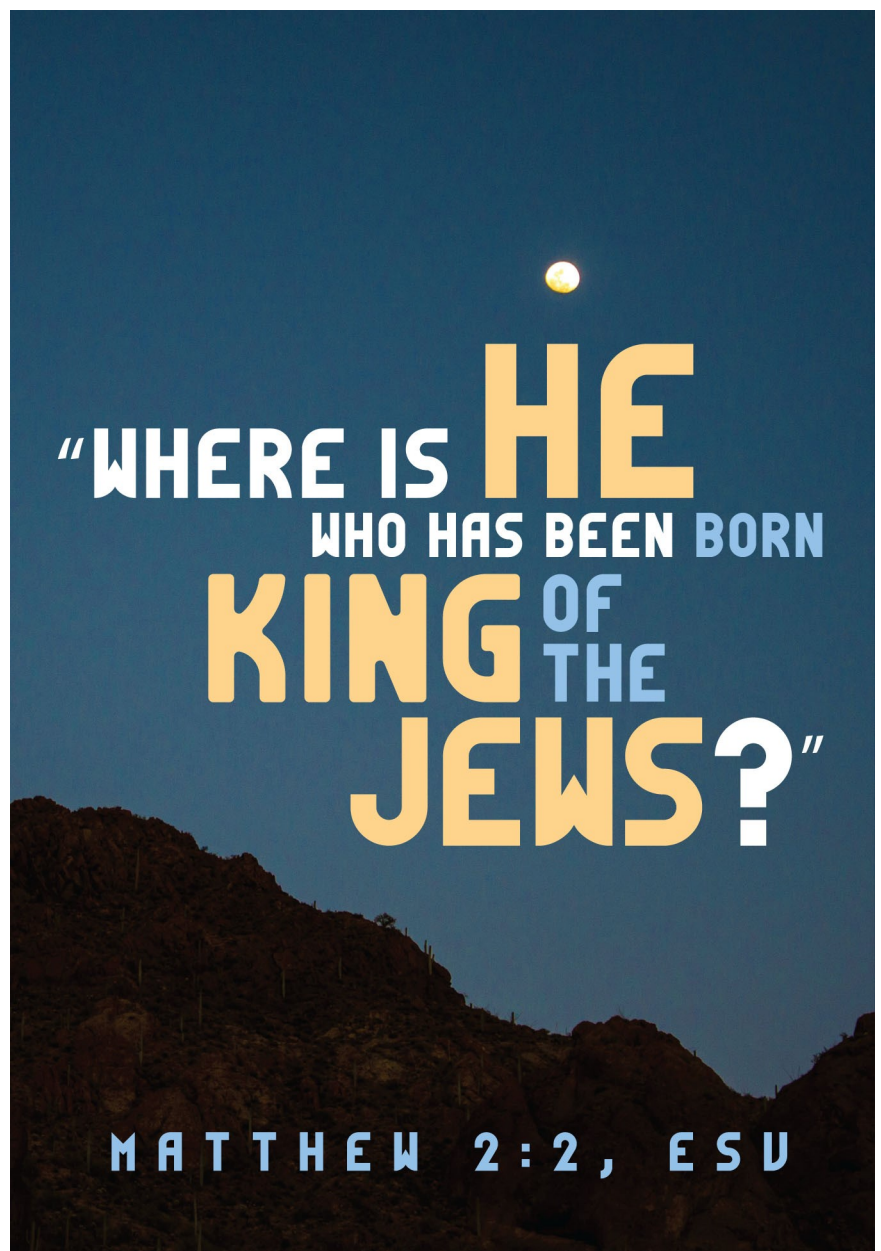
Roger

Well, here we are at the end of another year. At our Charge Conference we elected new Chairs for some committees and asked others to remain in the positions. Thanks to all for standing up to serve. Gavels have been passed and schedules for meeting days and times are being assigned.

There is an old saying in education that as you teach a class you learn more and more about the topic. And so it went as I guided the many discussion from Adam Hamilton's book "The Call" the life and story of Paul. We have a series of classes lined up for 2017. So listen up as we announce the courses.

I returned from helping Barbara and Rob Robinson drive to Massachusetts. They are back "home" now and getting settled in their new home. They will continue to need our prayers as they try to determine Rob's medical problems. Move to snow country... NOT ME!!!!

Every time I have made the drive across our great Nation I



COMMITTEES AND GROUPS



Greetings and welcome to the New Year

The finance committee hopes you had a pleasant and joyful Christmas and New Year. We wish to thank all those who have supported the Church in all the ways you have. Financially wise, for the first time in a number of years, we ended 2016 in the black by over \$1000. Not a great amount, but at least we've improved our standing.

We would like to acknowledge several people who have provided their time and service to the Church. First is Ilona Dean. As of December, she stepped down as Church Treasurer. Ilona was our Treasurer who brought us into the world of computer finance. We wish to thank Ilona for her year of service to the church. Alice Merriman has taken over on an interim basis until a permanent replacement is found.

We'd also like to thank Carrie Cattbriga and Jan Harlow for performing our 2015 internal church financial audit. Both spent many, many hours of their time going over all of our church financial records and reports and found no major issues. In

appreciation, they both received a gift certificate from Earth Works.

The 2017 stewardship pledge drive was also a success. We received 28 pledges totaling about \$78,000. That is a high for us compared to the past prior few years. This commitment accounts for half of our annual budget. In order to satisfy our budget, we need about the same amount of giving from the remainder of the congregation over this year. Hopefully, after hearing our four stewardship drive readings, you will be in a mood of giving so that we can meet our budget and financial commitments.

In Jesus we thank you.

Ray Benny
Finance chairperson



PLEASE MAKE THESE CHANGES IN YOUR DIRECTORY

Robinson, Rob and Barbara
15 Christian Ave.
Hudson, MA 01749
978/562-3474

A revised directory was sent out in October. Please let the office know if you need a copy. The next directory will be published in mid-January.



The Men's Group is an opportunity for all the men to get together and enjoy the companionship of other men. We get together for breakfast and devotions. We also discuss items that pertain to the church and community.

We try to have a Guest speaker each month. At the Jan 4 breakfast, the speaker is from the Civil Air Patrol.

The Men's Group meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30am.

MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Do you know how to recognize the warning signs of a stroke?

If you or someone you know is experiencing any of the below symptoms, call 911 right away. It is important to seek medical treatment immediately.

- Sudden Numbness
- Difficulty Speaking
- Severe Dizziness
- Loss of Coordination
- Sudden Loss of Vision
- Sudden Intense Headache
- Brief Loss of Consciousness

Protect your health by participating in the Life Line Screening health screenings that will be at the Chino Valley United Methodist Church on Monday, January 9, 2017. Through ultrasound we evaluate the carotid arteries for the buildup of fatty plaque, which is the leading cause of stroke.

Register today for the Stroke, Vascular & Heart Rhythm package, which includes four screenings: carotid artery, abdominal aortic aneurysm, peripheral arterial disease and atrial fibrillation.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.

Did you know that Zaycon delivers in our parking lot?



Zaycon is a company similar to Schwans or Omaha Steak. You can preorder food you would like to eat and it is delivered, packaged and frozen, right to our parking lot on a regular basis. Although the products are only available in large quantity, two or three families could get together to order and possibly save some money. In January, for example, you can get 80/20 ground beef for \$2.79/lb or boneless Applewood smoked ham for \$3.49/lb. If interested, check out their website for more information (www.zayconfresh.com).



Education News

On January 8th, at 5:00 pm, a Family Service is coming to CVUMC! Children are invited to attend with their parents and the service will include the children! There will be items at each table to keep the kiddos busy as well as things for Mom and Dad! Contemporary music, lessons from the Bible, and a puppet will be here. Help us plan and let us know what will benefit your family, including a future youth group. Come and enjoy a rockin' family evening!

On January 9th, a class is being offered titled "Christianity and World Religions." We will look at where and how God is at work in four major religions. Exploration of how other religions and other cultures coincide/conflict with Christianity will be looked at as well as different aspects of religious traditions and foods. The focus will be on Christianity and Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam and Judaism. Kathy West will be the facilitator.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



BIRTHDAYS

- 1/1 Nancy Mitchell
- 1/6 Gayla Remp
- 1/7 Jack Heller
- 1/9 Rick Merriman
- 1/10 John Peterson
- 1/12 Monte Colucci
- 1/17 Dave West
- 1/19 Laura Bell
- 1/23 Patricia Pehl
- 1/29 Terry Colucci
- 1/31 Margaret Pehl

ANNIVERSARIES



BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Sally Reese
- 2/10 Donald Mastin
- 2/13 Dan Terry
- 2/13 Elizabeth Vandenberg
- 2/15 David Starnes
- 2/16 Douglas Roberts
- 2/20 Joseph Culjak
- 2/20 Andrew Lam
- 2/20 Peter Mensing
- 2/21 Janet Harlow
- 2/21 Cindy Myers
- 2/26 Don Warren

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/3 William & Suellen Mitchell
- 2/5 Pastor Mike & Janet Keffer

January Readers

1st Service

If you are interested in reading at the 1st service on Sunday, please sign up in the Narthex.

- 1/1 Combined Service
- 1/8 Available
- 1/15 John Giles
- 1/22 T.J.
- 1/29 Available

January Liturgists

2nd Service

- 1/1 Nancy Mitchell
- 1/8 Janet Greer-Warren
- 1/15 Monte Colucci
- 1/22 Joyce Wise
- 1/29 Dave Starnes

Christian Symbols



Three Chests

Sometimes called "three arks," this image represents the gifts the Magi brought to the child Jesus: gold, frankincense and myrrh (Matthew 2:11). Because Scripture lists three gifts, the legend arose that there were three wise men. But the biblical account doesn't say how many travelers visited the Holy Family.

MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.

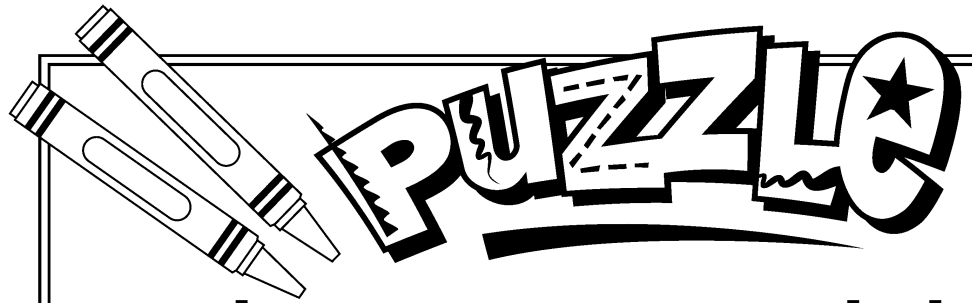


What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:



" _ _ M T H _ _ L _ G H T _ _ F

T H _ _ W _ R L D . W H _ _ V _ _ R

F _ _ L L _ _ W S M _ _ W _ _ L L N _ _ V _ _ R

W _ _ L K _ _ N D _ _ R K N _ _ S S . "

J _ _ H N 8:12, NIV

In Matthew 13, to what does Jesus compare the kingdom of heaven?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| A. A farmer sowing seed | B. A mustard seed |
| C. Yeast | D. Hidden treasure |
| E. A merchant who finds a pearl | |
| F. A fishing net | G. All of the above |



CHINO VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

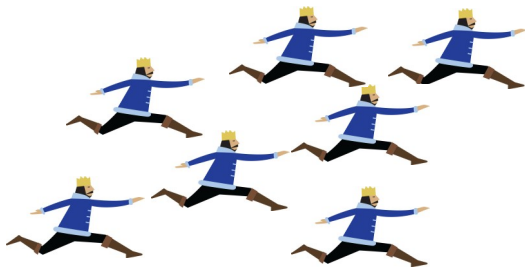
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—12 noon

*If you do not wish to receive this publication,
please contact the church office.*



Soul Sisters will be celebrating the 12th day of Christmas by having an “Italian Night” at Joyce Wise’s home on Friday, January 6, 2017 beginning at 5:00. Joyce will be providing all of the Italian dishes and is asking for friends to bring appetizers, salads or desserts. “Bring a wrapped fun gift for the “White Elephant” gift exchange. Please contact Joyce at 710-2051, Karen at 899-0863, or the church at 636-2969, to let us know what you would like to bring. Looking forward to seeing everyone. Soul Sisters will also have a craft workshop on Saturday, January 14.

