### December 2023

### Chimes Newsletter Chino Valley United Methodist Church

Our Mission Loving God and Serving our Community.

Our <u>Vision</u>—Chino Valley United Methodist Church is a vibrant, Christ-Centered Church and a beacon of hope through our witness, service, and prayer.



#### Sunday Worship

10:00 am in church Livestreaming Facebook/CVUMC2 and Website

> Sunday School Adult 9:00 am

<u>Children</u> 10:00 am (during worship)

Adult Study 10:00 am Tuesday

Office Hours 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Monday -Thursday

> Appointments Available

A child is born to us. a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be vast authority and endless peace for Davíd's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

Isaíah 9:2-7



# A Word from Pastor Elizabeth

#### "Merry Christmas!"

As we journey together through Advent, I hope you will join us in discovering our shocking hope, just peace, fierce joy, and transformative love. This is a time of waiting... waiting on the birth of Jesus as well as waiting on the kingdom of God to enter our world. And even as the very kingdom of God did enter this world all those years ago, we are still waiting for the complete fulfillment of God's kingdom, on earth as it is in heaven. In the meantime, we celebrate the beginning and the end of the fulfillment we wait for—Christ's birth. The arrival of our wondrous Light.

In the midst of the holidays celebrations and beautiful lights, I encourage you to spend some time in the dark. Turning off the lights, sitting in darkness, can settle and refocus our attention. Outside the walls of the church, we are so busy turning up the brightness of the lights, the volume of the music, and the pace of our lives in this season that we need help making room to welcome the Christ child. We need help noticing the birth of the Light.

So, turn off the lights and light some candles. Enjoy some quiet Christmas carols and time of prayer in the dim glow. Embrace the complex tapestry of life that we bring with us to the manger. Give permission for the hard but natural emotions that we often identify as "darkness" to have a place alongside the merriment and joy. The Light that is born on Christmas is a Light that stays with us in all things, in all places, and in all circumstances.

Blessings and warm wishes this Christmas and holiday season! Pastor Elizabeth From our family to yours a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year from the Chino Valley United Methodist Church

> Staff Trustees Finance SPR Leadership Missions Worship Christian Education



Sometimes we are sad and hurting and nowhere to go. No matter what you are going through or what you are feeling, Jesus always has a place in His heart for you. The Chino Valley United Methodist Church has a place in their heart for you too and invite you to a "Blue Christmas" service Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 am

# Ring-a-ling hear them sing... It's Christmas time in Chino Valley

United Methodist Church 735 E Road 1 South, Chino Valley, AZ

> Sunday December 10th 3 PM.

> > FREE ADMISSION Bring Canned goods to share with the Food Bank

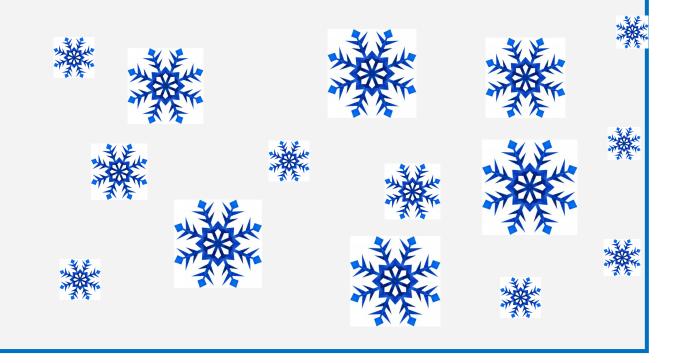
Children of all ages from 1 to 99 years old are invited to help us celebrate the holidays at this musical soirée.

Listen to Christmas classics and sing carols with the Chino Valley Community Choir music directors & pianists, and the Close Harmony Singers of the Methodist Church.





# Sunday December 24 10:00 am Chrístmas Eve Day Candlelíght Worshíp Servíce



# Trustee's Ministry

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Trustees!

The Trustees accomplished a lot this past year, and we want to thank everyone who volunteered to help with church events, activities, or made a monetary contribution to the Trustees.

Some of the highlights for this past year include:

- Working with other committees and members of our church in support of over a dozen community events and programs.
- Completing numerous maintenance projects inside the church, and on church property.
- Construction of the Reflection Patio thanks to a generous donation to the Memorial Fund from a former member.
- In preparation for the arrival of our new pastor, we made some changes in room assignment for our office personnel.
- Hiring a professional cleaning service to clean the church twice a month.
- Hiring a professional tree service to trim trees and remove dead branches that were a safety hazard along the west side of the church.
- Hiring a landscaping service to mow, cut and spraying weeds, trimming bushes, and general clean-up of our church property once a month.

Deryl Jevons Trustees Chair

# Christian Education

#### Adult Study

<u>**Tuesday January 16, 2024 at 10:00 am</u>** begins a new adult study class— the "Rose Guide to the Book of Acts." With pictures, charts, maps, time lines, and a clear and outlined format, this introduction to the Book of Acts helps explore the key people, places and stories of the first Christians and Early Church. Covered will be life and missionary journeys of the apostle Paul; A to Z guide of who's who in the book of Acts' maps for Paul's journeys, Philip's travels, the world of the first Christians and more' Timeline of the early church: AD 1-100; the Holy Spirit in the lie of the Early Church; and more. Books are \$14.00 each. Contact the office to reserve a book.</u>

#### Finance—Stewardship

By Anita MacFadden

#### **SPARK: The Christmas Gift**

Article by Ken Sloane

Ken Sloane is the Director of Stewardship & Generosity for Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church.

According to data provided by the National Retail Federation (NRF), Americans will spend an average of \$1,000 on Christmas (\$997.73, to be exact). Coincidentally, that number is also the average weekly salary in the U.S. That's a pretty amazing statistic.

I'm not writing to shame people for what we spend at Christmastime. Like many of you, I love the Christmas season, getting to see my adult children, finding gifts for them, and grumbling about when someone is going to give me some grandchildren so I can spend even more (the really fun part, I'm told).

I think most of us put a higher priority on the gifts we give than those we receive. Personally, there is no better feeling than finding a gift that really surprises and is well received. And yet, many of us will get gifts we don't need and don't have room for, given to us by people we love who want to express their love. And they will do this because we haven't given them another option. They will do this because we haven't shared the idea of another way to make us feel loved this Christmas. "Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me." They will do this because we haven't shared the idea of another way to make us feel loved this Christmas. I'm talking about giving a gift in our honor to help someone who needs it.

- To a local food pantry to help feed people in need.
- To Heifer International for livestock to help someone in a village on the other side of the world.
- To an inner-city school to help buy books or to provide instruments for music students.
- To a school like Africa University or to an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) in some of the poorest areas of the United States.
- To Habitat for Humanity, moving people into homes or to other ministries with homeless.
- Or give a gift to a ministry (youth, music, feeding, etc.) of your local church.

This list could go on for pages and pages; no doubt, other ideas popped into your mind. Most importantly, this won't happen until people like you and me – people who have all they need and are acutely aware of how many don't have enough – suggest there is a better way to honor us and Jesus on the day we remember his birth.

I was reminded this morning of the words of Philippians 4:13-11

"Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

# <u>2023</u>

<u>January</u> Human Relations "Undies Under the Tree" Undies Drive 3 bags of Undies and \$481.00 to the Chino Valley Education Foundation

February Horses with Heart \$801.00

<u>March</u> CV First Responders CV Police \$406.20 CAFMA Honor Guard \$406.20

> <u>April</u> UMCOR Admin \$265.00 UMCOR Disaster Relief \$265.00

<u>May</u> Polara Health Services for Vision / Blind Impaired Senior Peer Program \$580.00

<u>June</u> People Who Care \$615.00



#### **December Love Offering**

#### Yavapai College Chino Valley Campus Scholarships

The campus is located at 2275 Old Manor Farm Drive in Chino Valley. The campus houses courses in Agriculture Technology, Horticulture, Animal Care, Canine Care, Service Dog, Equine Care, Linework, and Construction. It is also home to the Commercial Driving program and is an ADOT-authorized testing site. The center offers students hands-on experience in state-of-the-art learning facilities, allowing students to learn in a real-world environment and preparing them for careers in specialized and well-paying industries.

> <u>December Meeting</u> 10:00 am Wednesday December 13 Finalize plans for 2024



# <u>2023</u>

<u>July</u> Chino Valley Teachers \$695.00

<u>August</u> Yavapai County Veterans Stand Down "Undies Drive" Large quantities of new Undies and \$405.00

> <u>September</u> Chino Valley Meals on Wheels \$486.00

<u>October</u> Chino Valley Food Bank \$482.00 + many boxes of food

<u>November</u> Coalition for Compassion & Justice (CCJ) Chino Valley Paloma Village \$TBD

<u>December</u> Yavapai College Chino Valley Campus Scholarships







Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<u>3</u> <u>Sunday School</u> 9 am Adult 10 am Children <u>Worship</u> 10 am	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u> am SPR (Closed) 3 pm Choir	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	9 CANCELLED Christmas Dinner
10 Sunday School 9 am Adult 10 am Children <u>Worship</u> 10 am Blue Christmas 3 pm Community Concert	<u>11</u>	<u>5:30 pm</u> Aroma's Night Out	13 10 am Missions 3 pm Choir	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Sunday School 9 am Adult 10 am Children <u>Worship</u> 10 am	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	20 3 pm Choir	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
24 Sunday School 9 am Adult 10 am Children <u>Worship</u> 10 am Christmas Eve Day Candlelight	25 Office Closed	<u>26</u>	27 3 pm Choir	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u>	1 Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6

Remember—December Love Offering Yavapai College Chino Valley Campus Scholarships

# **December**

# Scriptures & Messages

Sunday, December 3 1st Sunday of Advent	Sunday December 11 2nd Sunday of Advent Blue Christmas Service	Sunday, December 17 3rd Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Advent Candle Lighting Hope Isaiah 64: 1-3 Mark 13:35	10:00 am Advent Candle Lighting Joy Isaiah 61:1-3a Ecclesiastes 3:1-11	10:00 am Advent Candle Lighting Peace Isaiah 40:1
Mark 13:24-37 Pastor Elizabeth LeMaster <i>"Our Shocking Hope"</i>	John 1:6-8, 19-28 Pastor Elizabeth LeMaster <i>"Our Fierce Joy"</i>	Mark 1:1-8 Pastor Elizabeth LeMaster <i>"Our Just Peace"</i>

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve Day Candlelight Lessons & Carols
10:00 am
Isaiah 9:2-7 Luke 1:26-35, 38 Luke 2:1-7 Luke 2:8-16 Matthew 2:1-11 John 1:1-14
Advent Candle Lighting Love, Peace, Joy, Hope and Christ

Pastor Elizabeth LeMaster

### **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

<u>Birthdays</u>	Anniversaries		
December 12 Lyall Miller December 12 Joani Rose December 14 Pastor Elizabeth	December 20 December 26 December 27 December 27 December 31 December 31 Elizabeth LeMaster & Bart Cookus		



Upcoming ... Church Events Christmas Dinner CANCELLED Community Events



We are always looking for more voices to be a part of our choir. Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoon at 3 pm. Sing melody or parts—come and join us.

## <u>A Note of Thanks</u>

Thank you to all who have pledged for <u>2024</u>. Your generosity is very much appreciated and helps our church in many ways. Pledge forms for <u>2024</u> are available and can be submitted through the end of this year. ...Reminder... To finish up your <u>2023</u> giving, it needs to be into the office or post marked by December 31, 2023.



#### **Church Information**

Chino Valley United Methodist Church 735 East Road 1 South Chino Valley, AZ 86323

> Office: 928-636-2969 Fax: 928-636-1383

Email: chinovalleyumc@gmail.com

Pastor Elizabeth LeMaster rev.elizabeth.lemaster@gmail.com

> www.chinovalleyumc.org Facebook/CVUMC2

#### **Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday 8:00 am—1:00 pm Appointments Available

#### Sunday Worship

10:00 am in person Live streaming Facebook and Website

#### Sunday School

Adult—9:00 am Children—during 10:00 am service

#### Adult Study

Tuesday 10:00 am

## Remember... God Loves You... ...and So Do We!



Chino Valley United Methodist Church 735 East Road 1 South Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Return Service Requested

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE