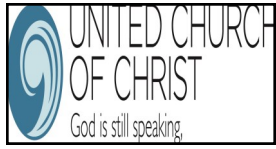


PASTOR'S POST

2020



United Church News

Happy New Year!

I have commented in conversation that I could hardly wait for 2020 to be over. Good riddance! With the pandemic and all the restrictions, it was time for that old year to go.

And yet, I cannot help but recall a scene from the movie "Castaway" with Tom Hanks; one of my favorite movies. In the scene I am thinking of, Tom's character has figured out a way to sail off the **island** where he has been marooned. So, after all his planning and calculations he is sailing away on a self-constructed raft. And yet, for one moment, he turns back to look at the island where he has lived for four years. It's brief, but it's evident as he surveys his island that there is a sentimentality, a connection, he shares, and always will share, with that desolate place. Then he turns around and sails toward the future.

I have a similar feeling. While 2020 has been tough, there have been good, God blessed occurrences during the year that are appreciated. The birth of my great niece would be one; the sabbatical would be another. And there are more.

Still, like in the movie, I turn from what has been and look toward the possibilities of 2021. As I have shared before, one of my favorite images of a new year is a large field blanketed with freshly fallen snow. The snow is completely undisturbed and glistens in the bright morning sun. With an air of peacefulness and quiet, the undisturbed winter field invites us to enjoy the natural beauty before us.

We have that same opportunity with this new year. We can choose to see the new year as a beautiful gift stretched out before us. In moments of quiet thought, we can contemplate what lies in front of us yet untouched by the footprints of our decisions and actions.

The key as we imagine the days ahead is in where we place our trust. There is an old prayer that goes, "*Lord, there isn't anything that will happen today that you and I cannot handle together.*" I put my trust in God for today and for the possibilities of 2021.

So, here's to the God blessed highlights of 2020 and the God given possibilities of 2021.

Looking forward,
Pastor Brady

P.S. While I like the image of freshly fallen snow, I like even more living in a place where it doesn't have to be shoveled ☺.



United Church of Sun City
11250 N. 107th Ave., Ste. 105
Sun City, AZ 85351
Telephone: 623-933-0058
Fax: 623-974-3518
Email: office@uccsc.com

PLEDGES

Please continue to send in your 2021 pledge cards. As of December 16, 2020 we have received pledges in the amount of \$53,540.00. Our goal is \$166,596.00. If you have not yet submitted your pledge please feel free to do so.

Grace...It's for More than Just Dinnertime

by Carol Reynolds, Pastor, Scottsdale Congregational UCC

Grace, it strikes me, is one of those “squishy” words that’s hard to put your finger on, seemingly impossible to define, save for the prayers of gratitude and blessing we say before digging into our meals. It’s a theological concept, but it’s more than that. It’s a characteristic of God that we aspire to, some of us more successfully than others; but it’s even more than *that*! When we add a “ful” to the end of it, I begin to picture something more concrete and outwardly beautiful—a ballerina, a horse, someone with *really* good posture who treads lightly upon the earth, etc.

I felt vindicated when I went to look grace up in my *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms* the other day. Beyond the “generic” version, which spoke briefly of kindness and unmerited favor, there were fully SIXTEEN types of grace listed and defined!!

actual grace

cheap grace

common grace

cooperating grace

efficacious grace

free grace

glorifying grace

habitual grace

irresistible grace

justifying grace

prevenient grace

sanctifying grace

saving grace

special grace

sufficient grace

universal grace



That’s a whole lot of grace! So let’s not leave grace at the Thanksgiving dinner table this year. Let’s spread it near and wide, like the Christmas cards of old, like the holiday cheer we wish we could invoke in person but will still have plenty of opportunities to conjure up in our many virtual spaces.

(This is only a portion of the article that was featured in the Southwest Conference Blog.)

MUSIC NOTES



Happy New Year to our United Church of Sun City family and friends!

Our beloved Choir is still on hold, as of this writing, but we are all very excited to start praising His Holy Name with our ministry of song again very soon!

On the other hand our worship team, including our newly formed quartet and our amazing accompanist, Beverly, has been very busy! Hopefully you've heard some of our solos and quartets after Pastor Brady's sermons on Sunday mornings, or our very special Christmas Eve Video Service! Even though the pews were empty, God Showed Up to make that experience a true blessing for those of us involved, and hopefully, prayerfully, for all who viewed it!

As more and more vaccines become available, we will be able to worship together again, and I hope you'll consider joining our wonderful Choir family! We'll keep you posted!

Blessings,

Alan Paulson

Minister of Music

Greetings from your Parish Nurse!

Greetings from your Parish Nurse. Here we are again with a New Year before us – 2021. I know that we are all praying for a year without the problems and frustrations of 2020.

I hope that you have looked at the 5 Healthy Habits – that I discussed on the videos last month.

Eating a healthy diet

Exercising regularly

Keeping a healthy body weight

Not drinking too much alcohol

Not smoking



Here is to a New Year when we can change our habits in at least one of these areas.

This month, I will be providing information about our eyes - How they normally function, and then some of the conditions that affect them like cataracts and glaucoma. Tune in to the weekly videos for more information.

Always feel free to contact me if you would like more information on one of the subjects I cover.

Lisa Dunbar

GODWINK

An event or personal experience often identified as coincidence, so astonishing that it is seen as a sign of divine intervention, especially when perceived as the answer to a prayer.

Godwinks are always signs of hope.

Do you have a Godwink story you would like to share? Please send me an email or write to me and tell me the details of your story if you would like to share that story with your Church Family. Sharing hope for the New Year.

Thanks

Donna Halasz

**COMMUNION at
United Church
is the 1st Sunday
of each month on line**



Are you in need of pastoral care?

If so, please contact the church

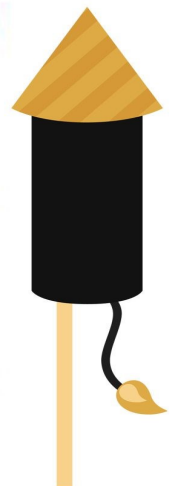
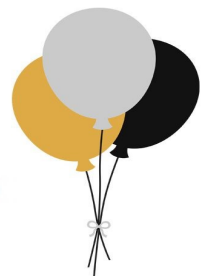
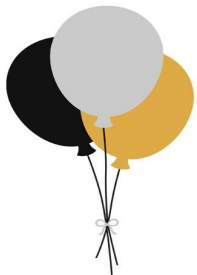
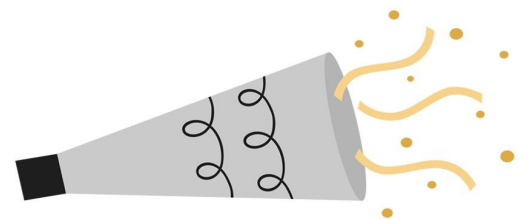
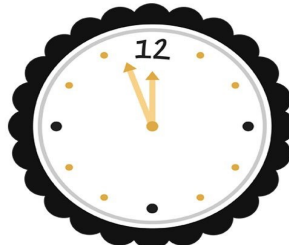
Office at 623-933-0058.

**Office Hours: Monday through
Thursday,**

9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



W	I	H	V	V	A	X	R	N	R	Z	G	O	A	L	S	A	Z	Y	F
G	R	B	K	G	Z	T	Y	Z	I	Z	Z	J	Q	C	O	M	P	X	B
M	D	M	B	T	B	K	T	P	X	N	S	L	T	K	C	X	X	W	T
M	I	Q	C	R	A	E	Y	W	E	N	O	Z	J	K	S	K	R	N	H
L	P	D	M	V	X	P	N	Z	J	L	O	V	Z	V	Y	D	Z	Q	G
G	P	E	X	A	X	K	O	Q	N	C	O	U	N	T	D	O	W	N	I
F	V	Z	N	D	S	S	M	B	P	C	Y	W	V	F	T	W	F	B	N
T	R	S	P	S	P	A	R	K	L	E	R	S	H	Q	T	O	J	A	D
P	J	O	L	B	Y	V	M	S	Y	L	N	N	N	R	C	A	F	L	I
Y	L	P	E	N	S	K	R	O	W	E	R	I	F	Z	N	Y	C	L	M
X	J	K	E	B	D	P	P	G	W	B	K	N	J	U	G	J	W	O	J
W	I	S	C	F	S	F	L	D	B	R	G	P	A	J	E	X	A	O	K
Q	S	C	A	O	W	D	J	R	M	A	W	R	T	J	H	Q	H	N	C
F	R	Q	K	J	N	W	P	A	R	T	Y	P	O	P	P	E	R	S	O
K	E	P	A	U	J	F	G	X	M	I	Z	X	R	T	S	X	K	Q	L
V	E	N	R	I	Y	E	E	B	G	O	Q	Y	I	U	P	H	K	Y	C
Y	H	I	S	I	R	E	O	T	J	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	S	E	R
Q	C	S	H	A	P	P	Y	G	T	B	O	U	V	C	D	L	R	Z	G
R	M	Q	G	Q	X	Y	B	N	O	I	S	E	M	A	K	E	R	G	F
N	A	E	N	K	V	K	T	Y	F	H	R	R	A	Y	R	Y	I	A	V

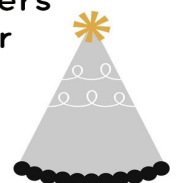
**Countdown
Confetti
Midnight
Balloons**

**Celebration
Fireworks
January
Happy**



**New Year
Clock
Cheers
Goals**

**Party Poppers
Noisemaker
Resolution
Sparklers**





January Birthdays

Mary Ann Fairbanks	1/02
Karen Handy	1/02
Alfred Blaschke	1/07
Janice Blumer	1/10
Sandy Krahn	1/10
Kelly Landis	1/10
Victoria Faulkner	1/11
Sharon Bargrain	1/16
David Dunbar	1/17
Ona Ralston	1/18
Lawrence Faulkner	1/26

January Anniversaries



Diane & Steve Gahm	1/13
Ted & Ruthanne Kern	1/16
Chuck & Nora Cline	1/17

Valley View Food Bank

Jesse Ramirez, Valley View Director, is so appreciative of all donations from United Church throughout the years. Your generosity helps so many families in need in our community. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can mail it to:

Jesse Ramirez
Director, Valley View Food Bank
12321 NW El Mirage Ave.
El Mirage, AZ 85335

Thank you again for your continued support.



From the Mission Board

SOCK A RAMA

The Sock a Rama will be held on Wednesday January 27, 2021 from 11am to 1pm. Drive through the parking lot and there will be containers for NEW socks to be donated to the Dysart Community Center. Adult and Children socks will be accepted. Our Goal is 500 pair of socks.

Come by so we can at least wave at each other!

Thanks from the Activity Fellowship and Mission Boards

Sock it to me! Sock it to me!



Pastor Susan

Thank you for your cards, phone calls and love you have given to this church for 15 years. We wish you well.



NEW YEARS EVE TRIVIA



Where on Earth Does the New Year first begin?

What the Dickens does Auld Land Syne mean, anyway?

Was there a Year Zero?

Who hosted the premiere New Year's Eve Party for almost half a century?

Who took up the previous answer's torch in 1972 and continued the musical tradition for another 40 years with his New Years' Rocking' Eve Shows ?

Why do they drop a ceremonial ball in New York City?

What is the number one resolution made by New Year's Eve party goers?

Are Father Time and Baby New Year Related?

Name the three best songs about New Year's in the last fifty years.

Finally, a New Year's Puzzle—What in the blazes happened in 1961?

Stay tuned next month for the answers

Services that are:

SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:

Healing Service

Coffee fellowship

Choir rehearsal

Sanctuary Church Service

Treasures for teachers.

The National Friendship Line 1-800-971-0016

The Friendship Line is a phone number for seniors (60 years of age and older) who can call once a day, every day, if they would like social interaction or ask health questions. They can even request a volunteer to make an outgoing call directly to a loved one who might be in need but is reluctant to reach out. Trained volunteers are available to take the calls and each year they make and/or receive 100,000 phone calls with seniors. Founded in 1985, The Friendship Line is sponsored by the Institute of Aging (IOA). This service is FREE.

National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255

We can all help prevent suicide. The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals.

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div></div>					1 <div>OFFICE CLOSED New Years Day</div>	2 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>
3 7:00 am Worship on line. Communion	4	5	6	7	8 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	9 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>
10 7:00 am Worship on line.	11	12	13	14	15 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	16 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>
17 7:00 am Worship on line.	18 Martin Luther King Jr. day Week of prayer for Christian Unity Office closed	19	20	21	22 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>	23 <div>OFFICE CLOSED</div>
24 7:00 am Worship on line.	25	26	27 Sock-O-Rama 11am to 1pm drive thru Church parking lot	28	29	30
31 7:00 am Worship on line.						

*United Church of Sun City
11250 N. 107th Ave., Ste. 105
Sun City, AZ 85351*

Phone: 623-933-0058

Fax: 623-974-3518

Email: office@uccsc.com

Website: uccsc.com

Facebook: United Church of Sun City

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage Sun City, AZ

Permit No. 262

Or Current Resident



January 2021

STAFF:

Rev.Brady Abel, Senior Pastor

Norm Still, Moderator

Alan Paulson, Minister of Music

Kira Kadel—Soloists

Beverly Fletcher, Organist

Mindy Ochoa, Administrative Assistant

Donna Halasz, Office Assistant

Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse

Steve Halasz, Custodian

Robin Lemkuil, Media

All Members & Friends of United Church, Ministers of the Good News

Office Hours 9:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.—Monday through Thursday

The office is closed on Friday and Major Holidays

Sunday Worship Service—7:00am on line

Coffee Fellowship—Suspended until further notice

Communion the 1st Sunday of each Month on line

Choir rehearsal—Suspended until further notice

Bible Study—Email each week

Healing Service: Suspended until further notice.