

DECEMBER

2019



UNITED CHURCH OF SUN CITY

# United Church News



## PASTOR'S POST

A few weeks back I recounted in a sermon about an exchange I had with a person on church property that was without a place to sleep for the night. In fact, the person had been out on the street for several nights and needed a bed. As I said at the time, there aren't many solutions for homelessness in the West Valley and sometimes the solutions we have available aren't ones that the person in need is ready to embrace.

My sharing about this encounter led to a number of conversations and it has given me much to think about, primarily how fortunate I am to have the blessings I have in my life, many of which I take for granted.

Now in Advent, with Christmas coming, in the hustle and bustle of gift giving and receiving, amid the joys and the challenges of the holiday season, here's a reminder for us to reflect upon which I find gets at the heart of thankfulness. The words come from a poster that lies on my desk, published by [www.livelifehappy.com](http://www.livelifehappy.com):

*If you have food in your fridge, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of the world. If you have money in the bank, your wallet, and some spare change, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the agony of imprisonment or torture, or the horrible pangs of starvation, you are luckier than 500 million people alive and suffering. If you can read this message you are more fortunate than 3 billion people in the world who cannot read it at all – Author Unknown.*

I have so much to be thankful for this holiday season and every day of the year. You have so much to be thankful for this holiday season and every day of the year. I encourage us to give even more thanks for the all blessings God provides. And as we take stock of our God given abundance, perhaps we will find new ways to make resources available for others. Reflecting on the birth of Jesus, we can see that anything is possible.

Now may the candles of hope, peace, love, joy, along with the light of Christ burn bright for you and yours.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays,

*Pastor Brady*



United Church of Sun City  
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Email: [uccsc@qwestoffice.net](mailto:uccsc@qwestoffice.net)

Office Hours 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Monday through Thursday  
The office is closed on Fridays  
Sunday Worship Service—10 a.m. - Sanctuary  
Coffee Fellowship —11:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary Communion the 1st Sunday of each Month  
Choir Rehearsal—Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (unless otherwise specified)

## Christmas Coloring Page



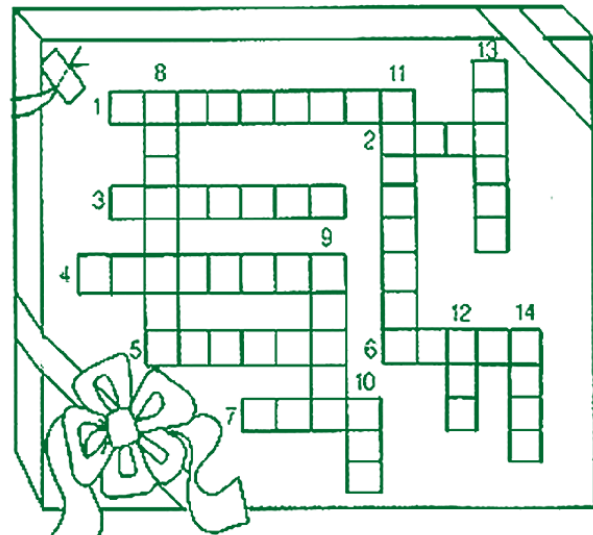
## Santa Word Search

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

Chimney  
Elves  
Fairies  
Jolly  
North Pole  
Reindeer  
Rudolph  
Sled  
Sleigh  
Sleigh Bells  
St. Nick  
Toys



## Christmas Crossword



### Across

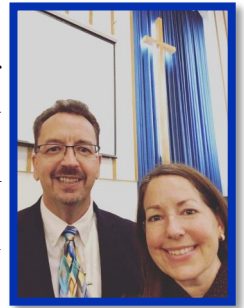
1. Hang these on the tree
2. Evergreen or pine
3. Frosty is one
4. You give and receive these
5. Tie this on your package
6. A Christmas color
7. For the top of the tree

### Down

8. Rudolph
9. Jolly toymaker
10. Color of Santa's suit
11. Hang this from the mantle
12. Santa's Helper
13. Santa's transportation
14. Christmas carol



Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, United Church of Christ Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice, preached at United Church of Sun City on Sunday November 3 bringing a message of love and inclusion for all people. Rev. Lund had been in Phoenix November 1st and 2nd for the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) Congregations for Mental Health Conference held at Church of the Beatitudes.



### *DECEMBER LADIES LUNCHEON*

*Join us on Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.  
for Mandarin & Cantonese Cuisine at Good China Restaurant  
9180 W. Union Hills Drive  
Peoria, AZ 85382  
(N W corner 91st Avenue/Union Hills Dr.)*

*Good China offers 18 lunch special choices at \$4.75 each. You can, of course, order from the regular dinner menu.*

*RSVP is required. Please see Hedy Hall at the sign-up table after Sunday service. Cut off for RSVP is Sunday, December 1st.*

*All women are welcome—bring a friend!*





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



### **Healing Service**

On the third Sunday of each month after the worship service, you are invited to gather for a brief (15-minute) healing service in Grace Chapel. You may offer prayers of healing for yourself or others. We will offer anointing with oil and the laying on of hands.

### **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.



### *In Memory*

*United Church member Monie Blom was called home to the Lord on October 15th while at home in Wisconsin. Please keep Clayton and the family in your prayers.*



**Are you in need pastoral care?**

**If so, please contact the church office**

**Monday through Thursday,**

**From 8:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

**at**

**623-933-0058.**

**THINK SOUP.....THINK SOUP.....THINK SOUP.....THINK SOUP**

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING BEGINS IN JANUARY**

**THINK**



**SOUP**



*From Your Parish Nurse, Lisa Dunbar.....*

Greetings from your Parish Nurse!

This month, the “E” in RESILIENCE is “Expressing Love, Appreciation and Gratitude”. Why is this important to our being able to bounce back and recover from the difficulties we face? Because expressing love, appreciation and gratitude are expressions of relationship. More than any other aspect of our health and strength, most of us find that when “the chips are down”, it is relationships that carry us through. Maybe it is a friend that listens when things are tough, maybe it is a spouse that sacrifices what they would normally do to meet your needs, maybe it is a quick call from someone who cares, but all of these relationships help us to persevere.

So how do we begin to build and maintain positive relationships? Initially by reaching out and thinking of someone else rather than ourselves. My Mom once gave me advice when I was just a teenager and about to go on a weekend retreat where I knew no one. She said, “Look for someone else who looks shy or lonely and help them to have a good time.” I hated at the time to admit she was absolutely right. It worked! And it still works today. We have many “unconnected” people in our church right now both visitors and snowbirds. What would it take to reach out, introduce yourself and maybe even invite them out for lunch to get to know them? We all need to cultivate new relationships.

But what about relationships we already have? How do we build and maintain them? Positive communication is a must in any relationship. How often do we say to our spouse, our children, our friends “I love you. Thank you for ...”. I hate to admit that I am not the best at this! It is harder at times to remember to appreciate someone than to take them for granted or criticize something they have done.

Recently, our study group on Wednesdays (All are Welcome) began studying “Choosing Gratitude” by Nancy DeMoss. One point that she makes is that Gratitude needs to become a lifestyle – not a one-time thing. We need to consciously work to develop gratitude to God and others in our lives. If we do so, we become more positive in our outlook and find more joy in our day to day lives.

How about starting today by making a list of 10 things for which you are grateful. Is there something on the list that you want to share with another? For instance, writing or saying to one of your children, “Thank you for checking in with me from time to time. I really appreciate knowing what is happening in your life.” Or to a spouse, “Thank you for doing that for me. It really helps me and I appreciate it.”

Remember that positive relationships make a difference in our ability to face the challenges of our lives, so reach out with a positive communication today!

**THINK SOUP.....THINK SOUP.....THINK SOUP.....THINK SOUP**

**THINK LADLE!**





### December Birthdays

Betty Detering-Fox	12/01
Richard Derr	12/02
Georgia Starr	12/03
Marris Warmath	12/04
Jim Rush	12/05
Gail Warmath	12/07
Ed Cross	12/08
Don Marselle	12/08
Virginia Hermon	12/09
Sue Skanes	12/09
Rick Wioncek	12/14
Melba Hunter	12/15
Sue Swagel	12/16
Gerald Houser	12/17
Debbie Markert	12/17
Lilly Trethric	12/17
Kathy Yoder	12/18
Helen Bauman	12/21
Pamela Bridges	12/21
Marilyn (Martin) Houser	12/24
Diane Gahm	12/26
Nancy Bain	12/29
Donna Walter	12/31



### December Anniversaries

Dan & Michelle Wruck	12/02
David & Linda Nelson	12/22
Lawrence & Victoria Faulkner	12/24
Jim & Nancy Fredette	12/28
Ray & Carol Archer	12/30
Ed & Pat White	12/30

### Valley View Food Bank

Jesse Ramirez, Valley View Director, is so appreciative of all donations from United Church throughout 2019 and many previous years. 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

or place the donation in the offering plate on Sunday and the church will mail the checks to Jesse.

Non-perishable, non-expired, foods may be placed on the Food Bank Donation Table at the rear of the church. At Christmas some of the most needed foods are stuffing mix, canned pie fillings, canned vegetables, instant potatoes, etc. Other much needed items are personal hygiene products, paper products, zip lock baggies, and diapers.

### Treasures 4 Teachers

**Now Open: Treasures 4 Teachers Westside Store (free or low-cost school supplies) Wed., Fri. & Sat. 2-6 p.m. Located on the Pendergast Elementary School campus, 3802 N. 91<sup>st</sup> Ave., Phoenix 85037 (91<sup>st</sup> Ave. just south of Indian School Rd.-follow signs to store building. Volunteers needed. Call 480-751-1122.**



### *AmazonSmile Program*

*Do you shop Amazon?*

*If so, your eligible shopping on Amazon can benefit United Church of Sun City. For more information and to sign up use*  
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/86->



**Fry's Rewards Program:** If you have an email address, you can sign up so the church can receive donations from Fry's from your purchases. **Call the church office, and we will email you the directions to sign up.** You will need your email address, Fry's V.I.P. shopper's card number, plus the church's organization code: **62679**.

If you have difficulty registering, Fry's will walk you through the process (1-866-221-4141).

We currently have 22 households who shop at Fry's.



## ***Music Notes.....***

### Music Details for December

It is absolutely unbelievable that December is upon us! What a year it has been in the music department at United Church of Sun City. And the events of December will add more wonder to the year.

Thursday, December 5 at 7pm we will have A Jazzy Little Christmas concert given by a group called "Swing Time" which features Dan Reed on trumpet; Ellie Chaffee on vocals and Clark Chaffee on drums and vocals and Richard Palalay on Keyboard. Ice cream will follow as usual.

Don't miss this unique concert to start your holiday festivities. Invite all your friends and neighbors. All are welcome.

Our annual Christmas cantata, "The Mystery and the Majesty" by Joseph M. Martin will be presented on Sunday December 8 at 10am. As noted in the foreword of the piece, Joseph Martin says:

"Each year during the Christmas season we pause to consider the miracle of Christ's birth. We are swept away by the wonder of it all, thrilled and amazed at the magnificent grace that brought God's perfect light into our world of darkness. From the grandeur of angelic glories serenading simple shepherds to the whispered prayers of a young mother cradling the Creator of life, the marvel of that night is truly profound...we celebrate the "beautiful impossible" of the incarnation."

Don't miss this spectacular experience with singers from around the valley joining our wonderful choir, and Phoenix Symphony musicians and Beverly Fletcher accompanying us for a truly mysterious and majestic time.

On December 11 at 4pm we will gather for our annual Christmas party for all congregants. We will have food, conversation, fellowship with entertainment by the high school group called The Audacity Quartet. All are invited.

Our Christmas Eve service at 5pm will feature Paula Provo, Harpist.

Have a blessed Christmas and peace in the year ahead.  
Ginni Summers  
Minister of Music.



## Holiday Musings from Pastor Susan Aurich

### New Interpretations!

This comes from a Catholic School exam where children were asked about stories in the Bible. Here are some of their answers.

1. The first book of the Bible, Guinness's. God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an Appletree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an ark and the animals came in pears.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
5. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
6. Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua let the Hebrews in the Battle of Geritol.
7. The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
8. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
9. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
10. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
11. The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
12. The epistles were the wives of the Apostles.
13. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
14. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

Blessings, Pastor Susan



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Congratulations to Ruth Little!

The Artists by the Lake Club named Ruth its October artist of the month.

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## BOARDS AND COUNCIL—DECEMBER SCHEDULE

**Thursday, December 12th**

**Boards meet at 9:00 a.m.**

**Council meets at 10:00 a.m.**



# DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship - Veterans of Cross Offering Receive New Members 11:00 Coffee	<b>2</b> 7:30 Tai Chi 10:00 Coloring 1:00 Walking Grp 4:00 All Star Band Reh.	<b>3</b> 9:00 Friendly Service 11:30 Women's Luncheon at Good China 1:00 Bells 2:00 Bells at Lifestream	<b>4</b> 10:30 Small Grp Study 1:00 Walking Grp	<b>5</b> 11:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Ice Cream Concert - Jazzy Little Christmas	<b>6</b> OFFICE CLOSED Decorating for Christmas	<b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>8</b> 8:30 Choir Reh. 10:00 Christmas Cantata	<b>9</b> 7:30 Tai Chi 10:00 Coloring 1:00 Walking Grp 4:00 All Star Band Reh.	<b>10</b> 9:00 Friendly Service	<b>11</b> 8:30 Men's Breakfast at Royal Café 10:30 Small Grp Study 1:00 Walking Grp 4:00 Christmas Party	<b>12</b> 9:00 Boards Meet 10:00 Council Meets 11:00 Bible Study 1:00 Book Discussion Group	<b>13</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>14</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>15</b> 8:30 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship - B'days & Anniv. -Loyalty Sunday UCSC Christmas Offering 11:00 Coffee 11:15 Healing Service-Grace Chapel	<b>16</b> 7:30 Tai Chi 10:00 Coloring 1:00 Walking Grp 4:00 All Star Band Reh	<b>17</b> 9:00 Friendly Service 1:00 Treasures 4 Teachers Journal Making	<b>18</b> 11:00 Movie - <i>The Christmas Shoes</i> with Rob Lowe	<b>19</b> 11:00 Bible Study	<b>20</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>21</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>22</b> 8:30 Choir Reh. 10:00 Worship UCC Christmas Fund Offering 11:00 Coffee After worship: Blood Pressure Check s	<b>23</b> 7:30 Tai Chi 10:00 Coloring 1:00 Walking Grp 4:00 All Star Band Reh	<b>24</b> 9:00 Friendly Service 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas! 	<b>26</b> No Bible Study	<b>27</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED
<b>29</b> 9:15 Soloists Call 10:00 Worship - Love Offering 11:00 Coffee	<b>30</b> 7:30 Tai Chi 10:00 Coloring 1:00 Walking Grp 4:00 All Star Band Reh	<b>31</b> 9:00 Friendly Service				

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

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**Website: [uccsc.com](http://uccsc.com)**

**Facebook: United Church of Sun City**

**Non-Profit Org.**

**U.S. Postage Sun City, AZ**

**Permit No. 262**

**Or Current Resident**



**December 2019**

**STAFF:**

**Rev. Brady Abel, Senior Pastor**

**Norm Still, Moderator**

**Susan Aurich, Assistant Pastor**

**Ginni Summers, Minister of Music**

**Ron Cammel, Kira Kadel, Alan Paulson —Soloists**

**Beverly Fletcher, Organist**

**Caroline Bittman, Administrative Assistant**

**Luanne Hanks, Financial Secretary**

**Sara Shryock, Financial Administrator**

**Robin Lemkuil, Audio Visual Tech**

**Douglas Gourley, Custodian**

**Steve Halasz, Sunday Custodian**

**Lisa Dunbar, Parish Nurse**

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

**\* \* \* \* \***

**Office Hours 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Monday through Thursday**

**The office is closed on Fridays**

**Sunday Worship Service—10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary**

**Coffee Fellowship —11:00 a.m.**

**Sanctuary Communion the 1st Sunday of each Month**

**Bible Study—Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in Grace Chapel**

**Healing Service: 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:15 a.m. in Grace Chapel  
in Grace Chapel**