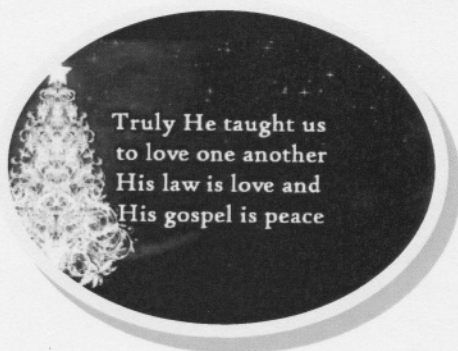


DECEMBER

2018



PASTOR'S POST



Greetings,

I got an email from Caroline Bittman, our church secretary, recently reminding me that my newsletter article was due. That's not unusual. Caroline has to regularly remind me that my article for the newsletter is due (Caroline has to remind me of many other things, but that's for another newsletter). Within a minute of reading her email, it dawned on me that this was the December Newsletter; the Christmas newsletter! Christmas!? Already!? So soon!?

Yes, the Christmas season is upon us. As people of faith, this is a significant time of year as we celebrate the real reason for the season; the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. I remember a banner I saw several years ago that read, "God Enters the World as Love." While we can celebrate God entering the world as love anytime, there is no better time to celebrate God entering the world as love than at Christmas.

"Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" (Luke 2:10-14, NRSV).

During this Christmas season, there are many events at United Church; all are invited to attend. This newsletter covers those events in detail. I offer a special invitation for you to attend our Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. in the sanctuary; a service ushering in a most Holy night and the time when God enters the world as love!

Celebrating God's love in the world, I wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and blessings galore for 2019,

Pastor Brady

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

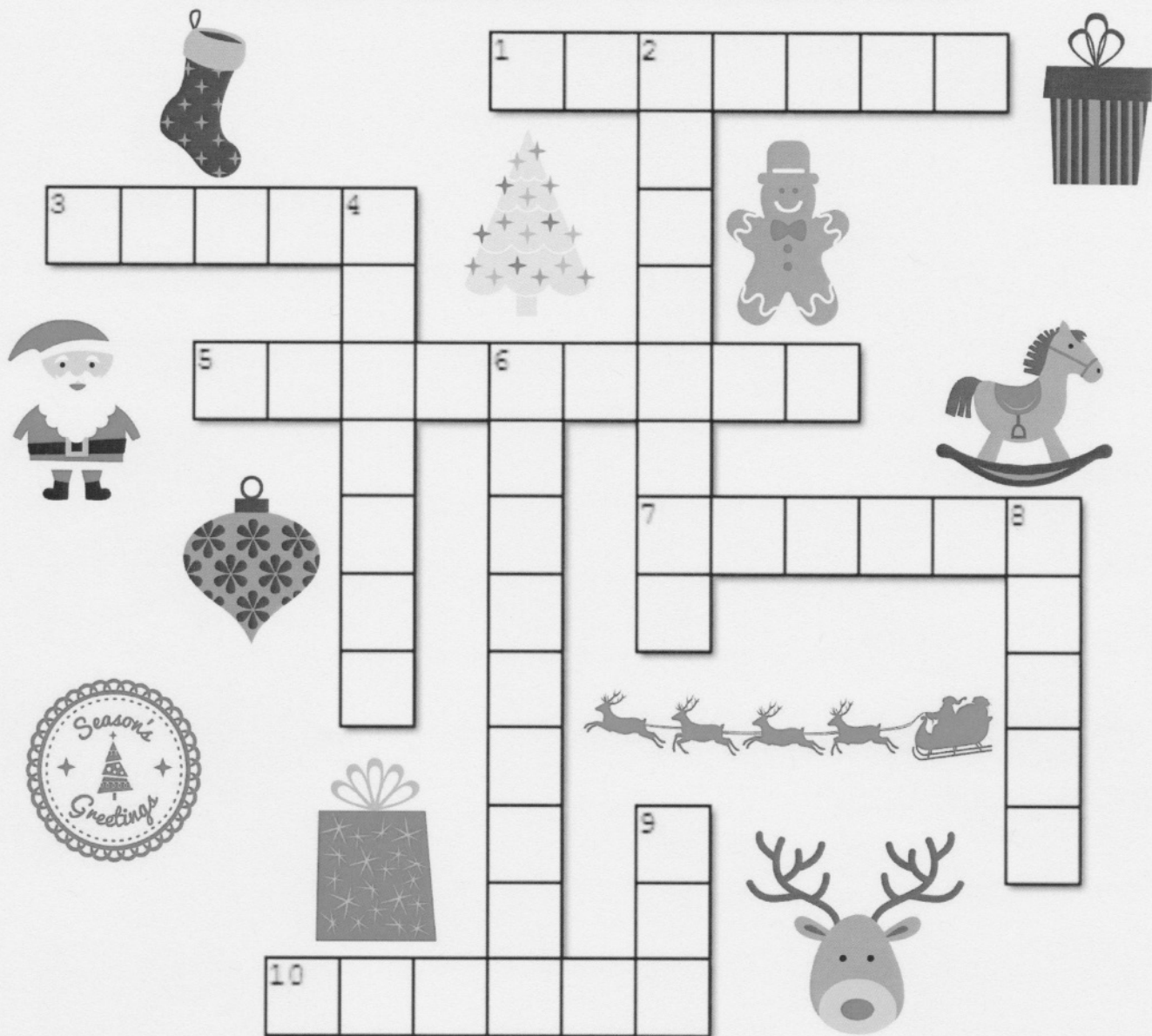
Office Hours 8 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Monday through Thursday
The office is closed on Fridays
Sunday Worship Service—10 a.m. - Sanctuary
Coffee Fellowship —11:00 a.m.
Sanctuary Communion the 1st Sunday of each Month
Choir Rehearsal—Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (unless otherwise specified)

UNITED CHURCH OF SUN CITY

United Church News

CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

USE THE CLUES TO COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



Across

1. One of Santa's Reindeer
3. Santa's Helpers
5. December 25th is _____.
7. Christmas Drink
10. The name of a popular snowman.

Down

2. Christmas Month
4. He hates Christmas!
6. You hang them by the chimney.
8. On Christmas morning we unwrap our _____.
9. _____ to the world!





December Happenings.....

12/3 7:00 p.m. "A Swingin'" Big Band Christmas with the Sun City All Stars and ice cream sundaes. Annual Fundraiser for The Friends of Music.

12/5 9:00 a.m. Olive Branch presentation of available services and benefits. Coffee & pastries will be served.

12/9 Cantata 10 a.m.

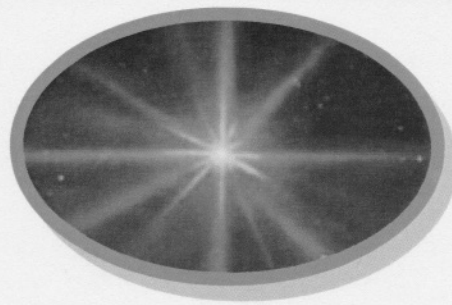
12/13 5:00 p.m. Church Christmas Party.

12/19 11:00 a.m. Brown bag movie, "The Man Who Invented Christmas."

12/24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service

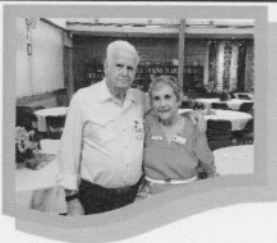
As of November 5th, the coloring group now meets at 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.

There will be no Tai Chi or Coloring Group on 12/24 (Christmas Eve) or 12/31 (New Year's Eve.)



The United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance
would like to thank the United Church of Sun City for
its generous and faithful support of the
2017 Christmas Fund
with gifts totaling \$711

Brian R. Bodager The Rev. Krista L. Betz
President and CEO Director, Ministerial Assistance
The Pension Boards-United Church of Christ, Inc.



Southern Fried Chicken, pumpkin pie, delicious side dishes and Square Dancing.

What an evening!

Over 60 people gathered for a delightful evening of fellowship.

The square dance floor was full with two squares of dancers that

treated us to the in's and out's of square dancing.

The biggest treat was when the dancers took a break,

the audience took the stage and put on quite a performance.

Thanks to all who came out for the evening and special thanks to our

United Church Square Dancers, Bud & Mary Sue Anreadson!

Square Dancer's Prayer

Father in Heaven,

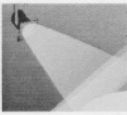
Some People wonder why we should open a square dance with a prayer. But that doesn't surprise You, does it? Perhaps, Lord, You even danced now and then Yourself...When You have made a new star or painted a perfect sunset... Thank You, Lord, for hands and feet and music. Thank You for laughter and friends, for swirling skirts and scuffling feet. Come dance with us, Lord. **Help us unwind.** Teach us to rejoice in everything that is good. Help us love each one whose hand we touch tonight. Come dance with us, Lord, among us and with us.

And thank you for the food!

Amen.

Remember the Christmas Party on December 13th!





Meet Bill Zimmer.....

I was born in Minneapolis, MN and raised in New Brighton and Shoreview, MN. I graduated from Moundsview H.S. and the University of Minnesota. My military service was in the US Army, Airborne, Rigger, E-6 (1970-1976.) My work history includes restaurant manager/partner; engineering-mechanical sales and design; conveyor company – fabricator/sales/partner - in a nutshell, conveyor equipment, design, fabricator and sales from 1975-2014.

My church work includes 14 years high school and adult teaching; 6 years engaged encounter teacher; 7 years parish council, 5 years school board, liturgy committees.

As an adult I've lived in Red Wing; MN, Sioux Falls, SD; Winona, MN (1970-1984); Mason City, IA; Spirit Lake, IA (1984-2003) and Woodbury, MN (2003-2014.) I married Cindy (a retired RN) in 1970. I have a son Scott, a daughter Kristin, one grandson and three granddaughters.

What brought me to Sun City was the retirement community facilities. We were first introduced to Sun City as visiting winter guests in 2011 and have been residents since 2014. I was attracted to the bare ground in March, desert aromas, distant mountains, year-round golf, the rec centers and proximity to daughter and grandkids in CA.

My favorite Scriptures are Proverbs 3; Psalms 52, 46:10; Matthew 7:7-12; John 18:1-4, and Luke 4:1-13. My favorite hymns include "One Bread, One Body" and "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

My most notable hobbies and talent are golf, lawn bowls, fly-fishing, Tai Chi, and banjo. I am a physical fitness freak: I swim, racewalker, kettlebells, ran 11 marathons, and more. I enjoy reading and Taoism meditation, Scripture, daily devotions (UCC and St. Ignatius.) I like to literally surf topics as they thread on the internet, and I like to cook and bake.

If I had to describe myself in 20 words or less, I would say I'm attempting to manage the tension of opposites (non-dualistic) and maintain a grateful and joyful heart, loving and honoring my family.

Some things I would like you to know:

- I am an extrovert when being a loner is inconvenient.
- Purposeful walking helps me pray, meditate and be mindful.
- All of life is will, I believe.
- Anything worth doing is worth doing well; the mantra from my dad to me to my kids.
- Red Wine and Tequila are not merely beverages.
- Pasta, pie and peanut butter should define a food group – in my opinion.
- I strive, when I remember, to be compassionate, frugal and humble because you and I will benefit...and God has told me something like that...for me.
- My wife, kids and grandkids may reflect something of me...or what I hope to become.
- Being still (meditation) helps me know the Trinity and experience "now."
- Politics should be a tool which empowers citizens rather than politicians.
- Life is short so be "present" to it and eat dessert first – just in case.
- Golf is like life...the ball goes where you hit it.
- If it is to be, it's up to me (with God's grace.)



Boards & Council

meet Thursday, December 13th.

Boards meet at 9:00 a.m.

Council meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Beehive.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Mark your calendars!

Men's Breakfast dates for December are:

Wednesday, December 12th

Wednesday, December 26th

At 8:00 a.m. at the Royal Café

All men are invited to join us for good food and good fellowship!

**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.

Are you in need pastoral care?

If so, please contact the church office

at

623-933-0058.



**Office Hours: Monday
through Thursday,**

8:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m.

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.

Sun Valley Lodge Senior Center

Want to make new friends (distribute mail), share stories, play games (call bingo), smile and laugh? It's all free.....just volunteer your time at Sun Valley Lodge Senior Center. SVL was the creation of Sun City Community Church ("SCCC") now United Church of Sun City. SCCC formed a corporation in 1962 to build the first retirement center (Sun Valley Lodge) in Sun City. Call 623-933-0137 ext. 120 for volunteer information.

Pastor Brady and Beverly Fletcher continue to lead worship at Sun Valley Lodge each Sunday at 1:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.



Do You Have a Favorite Poem , Story or a Blessing you'd like to share?

We would like to hear from you in the Sharing Faith section in the United Church News monthly newsletter and invite you to submit something each month. Any submissions should be emailed to Caroline by the 15th.



December Birthdays

Betty Detering-Fox	12/01
Richard Derr	12/02
Georgia Starr	12/03
Jim Rush	12/05
Ed Cross	12/08
Don Marselle	12/08
Virginia Hermon	12/09
Sue Skanes	12/09
Luanne Hanks	12/11
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
Joan Herzog	12/29
Donna Walter	12/31

Valley View Food Bank

Jesse Ramirez, Valley View Director, is so appreciative of all donations from United Church throughout 2018 and many previous years. The food bank is currently in need of funds to buy macaroni and rice in bulk. 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

You may also place a donation in the offering plate at church on Sunday and the church will mail the checks to Jesse. Thanks again for your continued support.



December Anniversaries

Dan & Michelle Wruck	12/02	40 yrs.
Butch & Julie Moldenhauer	12/06	60 yrs.
David & Linda Nelson	12/22	25 yrs.
Lawrence & Victoria Faulkner	12/24	10 yrs.
Jim & Nancy Fredette	12/28	50 yrs.
Ray & Carol Archer	12/30	30 yrs.

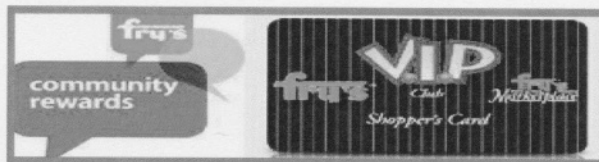


From the Church Office.....

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give him—give my heart.**
—Christina Rossetti

Wishing you all a joyous and blessed Christmas.

Caroline Bittman



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).

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/86-0181903>.



Music Notes.....

I was flipping through channels on my car radio the other day and what do I come across but Christmas music!!! Before Thanksgiving! And then I got to thinking the choir has been hard at work rehearsing the music for our annual Christmas Cantata since the beginning of October. This year we will present "*A Celebration of Carols*" by Joseph M. Martin on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 10 AM. This year's cantata is filled with familiar and some not so familiar carols as well as new music and words by Joseph. And we will have singers from across the valley and Phoenix Symphony instrumentalists join our choir and Beverly.

From the Foreword to the cantata:

"With the hearing of winter's first treasured song, we are gradually gathered from the noise of our daily enterprise and drawn into the hopeful sounds of Christmas. With great expectation we begin to decorate our days with the sights and songs of this blessed season and prepare our hearts for the warming candle of Christ's birth. With reverence we take from the closets of our heart the special memories of Christmases past and place them thoughtfully in our homes like sacred relics. Our places of worship reverberate with the time-honored carols of our faith and we remember that we are loved.

As you hear the timeless story, may you grasp hope with all of your heart and experience the rich abundance that is the true gift of the season. May joy and peace surround you....Let Christmas begin!"

The week before the cantata we will have the fabulous Sun City All Star Big Band performing on Monday, December 3, 2018 at 7 PM with three of our church soloists, Eric Emerson, Craig Zimmerman and me. This is a fund raising concert for the Friends of Music Fund. This fund is used to bring special musicians from the Phoenix area like Phoenix Symphony instrumentalists. Our cantatas would not be as spectacular without them! Please bring your friends and neighbors to this fun concert. And as always it will be followed by ice cream!!!!

Jubilee Bells will perform "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" on December 16. It is a beautiful, haunting rendition. The ringers have been hard at work rehearsing.

Looking ahead to 2019, we will have a "Voices in Praise" extravaganza at the end of January. You will have the chance to see Joseph M. Martin and two other composers of our choir anthems right here at our church. A special concert will be performed. Details to follow in January.

Have a Blessed Christmas and May Peace prevail in the New Year! Ginni



Musings from Pastor Susan Aurich

The Conspiracy
(by Ralph Milton)

“Have you noticed that stairs are getting steeper? Groceries are heavier, and everything is farther away. Yesterday I walked to the corner and I was dumbfounded to discover how long our street had become! And, you know, people are less considerate now, especially the young ones. They speak in whispers all the time! If you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, endlessly mouthing the same silent message until they're red in the face! What do they think I am a lip reader?

While I was combing my hair this morning, and I glanced at my own reflection and, well – even mirrors are not made the way they used to be! Another thing, everyone drives so fast these days! You're risking life and limb if you happen to pull onto the freeway in front of them. All I can say is their brakes must wear out awfully fast, the way I see them screech and swerve in my rear view mirror.

Clothing manufacturers are less civilized these days. Why else would they suddenly start labeling a size 10 or 12 dress as 18 or 20? Do they think no one notices? The people who make bathroom scales are pulling the same prank. Do they think I actually "believe" the number I see on that dial? Ha! I would never let myself weigh that much! Just who do these people think they're fooling?

All I can do is pass along this warning. **There is a conspiracy.** Unless something drastic happens, pretty soon everyone will have to suffer these awful indignities!”

Blessings,
Susan

2018 BLANKET DRIVE



Missions Board Chair, Hedy Hall, presents one of the many lovely warm blankets UCSC members donated to the Salvation Army in late October. Your love and generosity are going a long way in keeping people warm this winter. **THANK YOU!**

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Office Closed
2 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship & Communion 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	3 7:30 Tai Chi 9:00 VIP 10:00 Coloring 7:00 Allstar Band & Soloists/Ice Cream	4 9:00 Friendly Service 12:30 Jubilee Bells Practice	5 9:00 Olive Branch Social Services Speaker, Coffee & Pastries	6 11:00 Bible Study	7 Office Closed	8 Office Closed
9  CHRISTMAS CANTATA 10:00 a.m.	10 7:30 Tai Chi 9:00 VIP 10:00 Coloring 3:30 Allstar Band Practice	11 9:00 Friendly Service 12:30 Jubilee Bells Practice	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast	13 11:00 Bible Study 9:00 Boards 10:00 Council 5:30 Christmas Party All Church	14 Office Closed	15 Office Closed
16 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:15 Healing Service	17 7:30 Tai Chi 9:00 VIP 10:00 Coloring 3:30 Allstar Band Practice	18 9:00 Friendly Service 12:30 Jubilee Bells Practice 1:00 Journal Making	19 11:00 Brown Bag Movie Newsletter Articles Due	20 11:00 Bible Study	21 Office Closed	22 Office Closed 9:00 TJ Travel
23 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	24 5:00 Worship Christmas Eve No Communion 	25  Christmas (Office Closed)	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast	27 11:00 Bible Study	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed
30 8:30 Choir 10:00 Worship Love Offering 11:00 Coffee Fellowship	31 					