

JANUARY

2018

# PASTOR'S POST



UNITED CHURCH OF SUN CITY

# United Church News

**Waving goodbye to 2017 – already – and welcoming 2018 offers the opportunity to imagine what the new year might have in store for us. I found this article several years ago and I like it. I have gotten in the habit of sharing it in the church newsletter at the start of the year.**

*A new year stands on my doorstep ready to join life's journey. Something in me welcomes this visitor; the joy of a new beginning, the hope of bountiful blessings, the freshness of surprises ready to spring forth.*

*Yet, something in me wants to rebuff this visitor; the swiftness of passing time, the boldness of change, the challenge of saying goodbye.*

*Yes, something in me fears this visitor; the unnamed events of the days to come, the wisdom needed to share and to love, the demands of giving away and growing up.*

*Still, a new year stands on my doorstep. So with fragile caution I move to open the door. My heart leaps, my eyes open wide, and I smile. For right there, beside this brand new*

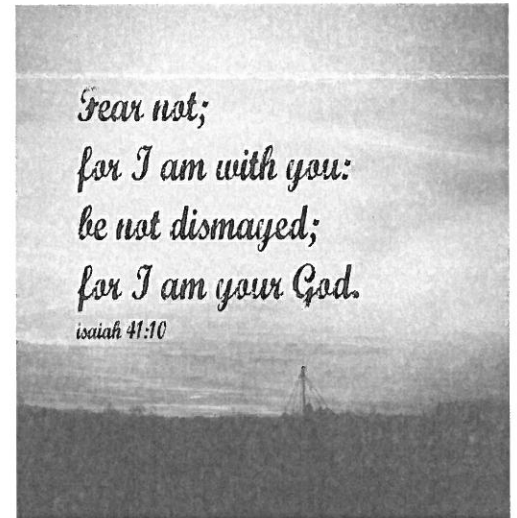
*year, stands God! God speak these words, "Can we share this year together?"*

*I am so overwhelmed with God's goodness. I can barely whisper my answer. "Welcome, please, I gladly share this year with you" (Author Unknown).*

**Friends, whatever 2018 has ready to offer, I once again hope and pray that we all know the presence of God more fully with each and every day. We journey together.**

**God Bless,**

*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](mailto:uccsc@qwestoffice.net)  
 Web site: [www.uccsc.com](http://www.uccsc.com)  
 Facebook: United Church of Sun City

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)  
 Jubilee Bell Rehearsal—Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m.  
 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

## Points to Ponder in a New Year

From Pastor Susan

Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?

If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?

Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?

Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposites?

When someone asks you "A penny for your thoughts" and you put in your "two cents worth," what happens to the other penny?

Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things.

Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?

If lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked, doesn't it follow that electricians can be delighted, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, tree surgeons debarked and dry cleaners depressed?

Blessings, Susan

**FRIENDLY SERVICE will resume  
January 2.**

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Dear Friends:

Thank you for your caring thoughts during Bob's last journey. He loved the church. You have been so kind.

Sincerely,

Joan Herzog

P.S.: A special thanks for Pastor Susan. God Bless!

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**PLEASE COME HELP with taking  
down the Christmas decorations in  
the sanctuary on Friday, January  
12 at 9:00 a.m.**

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## Boards & Council

meet January 11

Boards meet at 9:00 a.m.

Council meets at 10:00 a.m.

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**Corrected Phone Number:**

Nancy Bain 623-261-6326

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**Please note new apartment number:**

Bob & Marian Gilbert  
3840 N. Desert Harbor Dr. #232  
Peoria, AZ 85381

C: (623) 414-1107

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**New Address:**

Jim & Carol Rush  
10101 W. Palmeras Dr., Apt. 345  
Sun City, AZ 85373-2058

## Music Notes.....

I am still basking in the glow of the beautiful cantata, "The Christmas Story". To direct Phoenix Symphony instrumentalists and the amazing singers is the most incredible experience of my life. Each year, it seems to get better and better.

If you missed the cantata, you can go to our website and click on the sermon for Dec. 10, 2017 and listen to it.

It has been a wonderful year of music at United Church. I look forward to 2018 with anticipation of more great worship services to come. All are welcome to sing. Let this next year be the year you join.

The Friends of Music fund is looking for funds to continue bringing Phoenix Symphony members to our cantatas. Please designate Friends of Music in the memo area of the check. Thank you in advance.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and peace and blessings in the New Year.

Love,

**Ginni Summers**, Minister of Music

**2018 PLEDGES:** If you have not received or returned your United Church pledge for 2018, please consider placing your pledge card in the offering plate or mailing it in. If you'd like to receive one, you will find them on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Remember this is your best estimate of your giving to the church programs. If your circumstances change, any changes in giving will not be questioned by the church and your giving is kept confidential.

75 pledges have been received for a total of \$109,058. Our pledge goal is \$288,500.

**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.

**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.

*In Loving Memory!*

**Bob Vise 12/12/17**

*Please keep Virginia &  
family in your prayers*

**Dear Congregation,**

Thank you so much for all the gifts, cards and well wishes for my retirement. I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate everything you've done for me. Caroline Bittman will replace me beginning January 8, 2018. Stop by the office and welcome her when you have a chance.

God Bless!

Nancy Jolly

**Musings From Your Moderator**

Well, here we are again at the end of another year and wondering "how can time GO so fast??" It happens each and every year, yet we wonder where does time go. My suggestion is that we love and appreciate each day and each other so we don't worry too much about what is behind us! That is not to say we should not take a few moments to recall all the happy times and events. It certainly can give one a warm glow to remember special events. For example, The Sunrise service at the Sun Bowl, the Cantatas, and all the other church events. We are truly blessed! Pastor Brady and Pastor Susan are wonderful at leading us in our faith journey.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, we participate in a world-wide event unlike any other. Families establish traditions that go on for years. We give willingly to the less fortunate, we sing carols and smile a bit more at those we meet. We see Angel trees and hear bell ringer volunteers for the Salvation Army who fill the air with the sound of the season. I could go on as this is one of my favorite times of the year, but I won't bore you.

Here are a few wise words from Harvey Mackey:

1. Take control of your attitude before it takes control of you.
2. You are only as happy as you decide to be.
3. Unhappiness always seeks to get. Happiness always seeks to give.

Let's give 2018 a chance to be the best yet. Happy New Year!

Peace and joy,

*Donna Walter*



## **The United Church Council**

has appointed a core team to create a covenant which will be an official open and affirming, unconditional, inclusive welcome to all people. The current members of the committee are: Pastor Brady Abel, Diana Graettinger, Pam Bridges, Rodney Aurich, Tim Burke, and Ginni Summers. If you would be interested in lending your voice to this team, please let Diana or Pastor Brady know.



**COMMUNION** at United Church is usually the first Sunday of each month. Please note in January we will serve communion on January 14.



### ***A Note from a Open & Affirming Committee Member***

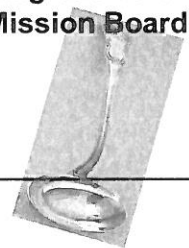
We are finding more and more couples choosing to live together instead of getting married. Living together or married, my feelings are it's wonderful that a person can find love no matter if they are a gay couple or a straight couple. There are so many gay couples who have been happily together for an extended period. I'm in a happy heterosexual marriage, but I support the LGBTQ community. Remember God made us all, loves us all, and doesn't stand in judgment of our choices. In the future we will be holding a meeting regarding this topic. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Rodney Aurich

### **2018 Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign**

**2018 Souper Bowl of Caring Campaign is not about football. It's friendly competition between Church of the Palms and United Church of Sun City. The winners are the food pantries that supply much needed soup to the community. The donation drum will be set up on January 7th at the north entrance door. All donations received will go to Valley View Food Bank. Let's bring back the Silver Ladle. Hedy Hall, Mission Board.**

***Hedy Hall***



### **From the Mission Board**

There are plenty of ways to give back, not only during the holidays but throughout the year. The Mission Board thanks the United Church of Sun City members, family and friends for sharing time, talent and treasure to make a difference in the lives of the those in need. Wishing you and yours a blessed, healthy and safe New Year.

*Hedy Hall, Kay Kays, Karen Fortner, and MaryAnn Fairbanks*





**Do You Have a Favorite Poem or 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 Nancy by the 15th of the month.*

1. **Stumped on a project or presentation? Try ditching the computer and writing by hand. This experience has been proven to help creativity.**
2. **Don't let yourself be controlled by three things: people, money or past experiences.**
3. **You can "rewire" your brain to be happy by simply recalling three things you're grateful for every day for 21 days.**
4. **Try to spend more money on experiences and less on things. You'll thank yourself later on in life.**

*Submitted by Pat Dilmore*

**Remember in your prayers:**

Phyllis & Ben Hale, David Nelson, Virginia Vise & family, Mary Ann Fairbanks, Rod Aurich, Ginni Summers & family, Joan Herzog, Max McVicker, Janet Kennedy, Clarice Buchholz, Jean Petersen, Anna Kruke, Edith Brozka, Bill Oberstadt, Byron Gettle, Rick & Bonnie Houston, Herman Krehbiel, Bob Engelman, Shirley Lindquist, Grey Pohl and Doris Flessner.



**Who's Who this Month:**

**Head Usher:** Debbie Still  
**Assistant Head Usher:** Randy Skanes  
**Ushers:** Bob Gunther, Helen Bauman, Nancy Wohlhuter, Sally Schwenker  
**Greeters:**  
**Candle Lighters:** John Burton, Ron Cammel, Nancy Wohlhuter, Jonathan Foote  
**Head Teller:** Mary Sue Andreason  
**Tellers:** Dan Wruck, Rodney Aurich, Nancy Nay, Donna Walter  
**Fellowship Coordinator:** Jean Cross  
**Fellowship Servers:** Nancy Nay, Brenda Gunther  
**Communion Preparers:** Pat Dilmore & Audrey Goudy  
**Media:** Rodney Aurich & Jerry Walter

It's been a year since having started working as your Church Custodian. In this time I have discovered that "recycling" can sometimes be an emotionally charged topic of conversation. Critics dispute the net economic and environmental benefits of recycling over its costs. Proponents often interpret information in a way that confirms their preexisting beliefs about recycling.

Until we are able to make anything we want out of nothing, does it not make sense to make the most use, out of what we have, as best we can?

How about the idea of creating products and its packaging with a closed loop cycle already mapped out for them in an economy based on renewable resources?

Food for thought in 2018.

Happy New Year and thank you for your contributions to our diverse recycling efforts here at the church.

Warmest Regards,  
Jozalyn Hamilton

**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 Kathy Thornton, Director of Activities, 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.**

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 • If you need pastoral care, please contact •  
 • the church office at 23-933-0058. •  
 • .....  
 • .....  
 • .....

## January Birthdays!

Liz Jameson	1/1
Mary Ann Fairbanks	1/2
Karen Handy	1/2
Ben Hale	1/4
Al Blaschke	1/7
Margaret Wojciechowski	1/7
Janet Kennedy	1/8
Janice Blumer	1/10
Sandy Krahn	1/10
Kelly Landis	1/10
Victoria Faulkner	1/11
Sharon Bargrain	1/16
Jim Karstens	1/17
Ona Ralston	1/18
Larry Faulkner	1/26
Dee Scherer	1/27
Edith Nelson	1/29



## January Anniversaries

*Ted & Ruthanne Kern*                      *January 16*

*Chuck & Nora Cline*                      *January 17*

## Valley View Food Bank

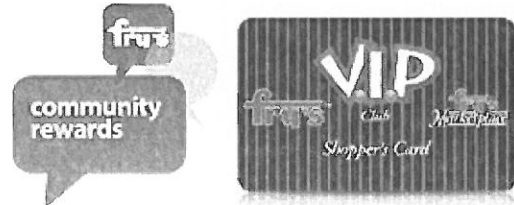
Jesse Ramirez, Valley View Director, is so appreciative of all donations from United Church throughout 2017 and many previous years. The food bank is currently in need of funds to buy macaroni and rice in bulk. If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can mail it to:

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.

## Healing Service—January 21:

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.



**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. Between September and November United Church earned **\$53.82.**

**To the United Church Congregation,**  
 Thank you for all the gifts, cards, kind words, and good wishes at Christmas. I appreciate the thoughtfulness.

Peace,  
 Pastor Brady

# Welcome New Members - December 3, 2017



**Jasmine Warren**

9255 W. Mountain View Rd.

Peoria, AZ 85345

jazzigirl95@hotmail.com

C: 623-236-5331

Birthday: March 27

Jasmine's grandmother is Jackie Middendorp, who is a member of United Church. Jasmine loves art and playing computer games, music, and reading.



**April Christensen**

9255 W. Mountain View Rd.

Peoria, AZ 85345

C: 623-213-3727

Birthday: March 5

Jackie Middendorp is April's mother and Jasmine Warren is April's daughter. April decided to attend United Church since her mother attended. April enjoys crocheting, animals, music and playing games.



**Sharon McKinney**

10425 N. 111th Ave.

Sun City, AZ 85351

SharonMcKinney51@yahoo.com

C: 480-381-0039

Birthday: May 19

Sharon has 4 girls, 9 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Sharon has known Joan Herzog and her late husband, Bob, since about 2003. When she decided to attend United Church, she felt welcomed and a sense of belonging.



**Jean Beidler**

4949 W. Northern Ave #258

Glendale, AZ 85301

jbeidler60@gmail.com

C: 602-909-6606

Birthday: June 4

Jean has 2 children and 2 grandchildren. She enjoys reading and cooking. She is friends with Jackie Middendorp.

# More New Members.....December 3, 2017



## **Rusty & Joni Babbitt**

10662 N. Balboa Dr.

Sun City, AZ 85351

H: 623-974-4985

Rusty: 623-680-2689

Joni: 623-910-4833

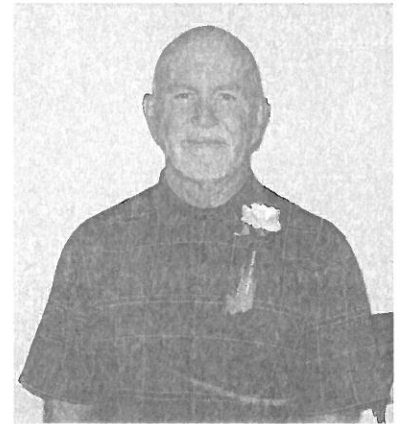
jorrussbabb@gmail.com

Rusty's Birthday: November 3

Joni's Birthday: September 18

Anniversary: September 8

Rusty and Joann were both in the Air Force.



## **Bill Zimmer**

10645 W. Clair Dr.

Sun City, AZ 85351

hslodge3@cox.net



## **Nancy Nay**

10403 W. Roundelay Cir.

Sun City, AZ 85351

623-815-9388

Birthday: September 12

Nancy first attended United Church in 2010. Her mother was a member. They were both snowbirds and traveled back and forth from Michigan and Arizona. Nancy still has a cabin in Michigan. She enjoys golf, traveling, music programs, and bowling.

