

PASTOR'S POST

2021



United Church News

Greetings,

Because of the recent presidential inauguration, I wanted to share thoughts on prayers offered at presidential inaugurations. Since 1937, two or more prayers have been shared each time. This inauguration was no exception. As I watched the inauguration of President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris, I spent some time reading prayers from other inaugurations. In doing so, I found common themes. Here are some of those themes:

Praying for our nation, praying for the President Elect and Vice-President Elect, praying for unity, praying for the transition of power, praying for the courage and commitment of those elected and for the American people, thanksgiving for our blessings, thanksgiving for our diversity, thanksgiving for our freedoms, praying for our reliance upon God, praying for reconciliation, and praying for our future.

While circumstances change through the years, I find these sentiments to be consistent and needed as we continue to grow as a nation. And while all of these are important ideas to include in prayer, one that stands out to me is a prayer to be more reliant on God. It seems we live so much of the time as though everything depends on us. And look where that has led. So, it is time that we become more reliant on God and mindful of who we are as people of God. We need to remember God in our decision making and hope that our elected leaders will do the same. With these thoughts in mind, here is my inauguration prayer:

Almighty God,

We give you thanks for your abundant blessings upon this nation. Once again, we come to a time when we transition elected leadership. We pray for President Joe Biden and Vice-President Kamala Harris and families. We pray for former presidents and vice-presidents. We would ask for the new president and vice president to be mindful of you in their daily decision making. Together with them and all elected officials, as we look to the future, we would ask for your guidance seeking to be a more peace filled and unified people. In so doing, we hope to reconcile differences and celebrate diversity. In You We Trust. Amen.

Friends, please keep praying for all our elected officials, our nation, and our fellow citizens. Prayers matter.

Prayerfully,

Pastor Brady



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MUSIC NOTES

I wish I had some real news for you on this beautiful February day, but we all have to be patient, and remember that life moves on God's schedule, not our own!! Very soon we will be rehearsing together to sing God's praise at our live Sunday morning services! Hopefully we will have all had our vaccines by then, because I find it very exhausting to sing with a mask on!

If you will be joining choir for the first time, we rehearse on Sunday mornings at 8:30am and then sing for the church service at 10am so there's never a need to make two trips to church for a separate rehearsal time!

I certainly hope you've enjoyed our solos and quartets accompanying Pastor Brady's Sunday morning online sermons. You can actually watch all of them anytime you want by searching my name on YouTube!

Yours for a song,

Blessings,

Alan Paulson

Minister of Music



Greetings from your Parish Nurse!

Greetings from your Parish Nurse. It's February, and Valentine's Day is almost upon us. I see red hearts already in the stores.

My focus in February will be on the Heart – our physical heart, of course, but also our spiritual and emotional heart as this affects us in physical ways as well.

Do a heart check today!

How am I feeling physically? Am I having any chest pain or pressure? Am I having more shortness of breath than I normally do? Do I ever feel my heart is racing, pounding, or irregular?

How am I feeling emotionally? Am I experiencing joy in my day to day life? Am I feeling more fearful and anxious about the future? Am I able to express and accept love from others? Have I been able to forgive those who have hurt or abused me?

How am I feeling spiritually? Do I have a sense of God's presence with me? Do I read His word often with the intent of learning to know Him and to obey? Do I express awe and thanksgiving to God every day?

Please write down some of your answers to these questions and think about them. What do you want to change? Are you willing to make a change happen? Let's explore our hearts together this month! Talk to you soon!

Lisa Dunbar





Greetings United Church of Sun City Family

We are writing this message, assuming we have not returned to our normal schedule at church.

In the past, February is the month we usually have the church Birthday Party on the second Sunday of the month. Well, at this time, the party is cancelled for February, but we can still celebrate.

You will be receiving in the mail, or maybe you have already received your invitation to receive a “Birthday Gift” on the day we usually have the party. What better day to celebrate than Valentine’s Day.

Your invitation says, if we have church service, pick up your gift after church. If we don’t have service drive by the church on Sunday February 14, between 10:00am and 12:00pm and pick it up.

If we can’t worship together in the church sanctuary on Sunday mornings, let’s drive by and Thank God for the day. We hope to see many of you on Valentine’s Day.

Happy Birthday from the Fellowship & Activity committee.

Ash Wednesday Shared Worship

Feb 17th, 11 a.m. on Zoom

We will join with Church of the Palms, Desert Garden -Sun City- West, and Sun City Christian Church for a virtual worship on Zoom. No reservations are required. The service will include bible readings and short reflections by the pastors as well as prayer and music.

We can’t provide actual ashes for this; you may however gather a small amount of dirt or something symbolic (even water!) for use at the close of the service. Of course...your friends are welcome! Here is the zoom link:

· <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83754098707?pwd=UklrSEFVSVZSWEZZZW5FV7Y2TTZXUT09>

· Meeting ID: 837 5409 8707 Passcode: 174773

· Phone: 1-669-900-6833# or 1-837-540-98707#

Peace,

Pastor Brady

United Church – Sun City

IN THE KNOW



Pastor Susan's drive thru on December 22, 2020. It was wonderful to see so many people come by with cards and gifts to say goodbye to a much loved Pastor. She will be missed.

NEW YEARS EVE TRIVIA ANSWERS

Where on Earth Does the New Year first begin? **Christmas Island in the South Pacific near Samoa.**

What the Dickens does Auld Land Syne mean, anyway? **Scottish poet Robert Burns, wrote this particular piece.**

Was there a Year Zero? **NO**

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

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 ? **Dick Clark**

Why do they drop a ceremonial ball in New York City? **The ball drop was an advertising stunt by the first owner of the New York Times.**

What is the number one resolution made by New Year's Eve party goers? **Survey says! To not make any more New Year's resolutions.**

Are Father Time and Baby New Year Related? **No. Indisputable, not.**

Name the three best songs about New Year's in the last fifty years. **Almost unbelievable, there is not a single one.**

Finally, a New Year's Puzzle—What in the blazes happened in 1961? **Nothing. This was a trick question.**



February Birthdays

Hedy Hall	2/1
Shirley Frederickson	2/3
Jim Smithback	2/5
Carol Rush	2/7
Dennis Bates	2/8
Elizabeth Burke	2/8
Peggy Barth	2/13
Nancy Wohlhuter	2/13
Terri Behl	2/14
Beverly Peterson	2/15
Steve Gahm	2/19
Audrey Rapp	2/20
Bob Gunther	2/26
Rodney Aurich	2/27
Beverly Jensen	2/27
Harriet Strembel	2/28

February Anniversaries



Don & June Stampfl

2/13

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

We collected \$1050.00 for the Souper Bowl of Caring soup drive and the money will go to Valley View Food Bank.

Thank you again for your continued support.



From the Activities & Fellowship and Mission Boards

SOCK-A- RAMA

The Sock-a-Rama was held on Wednesday January 27, 2021 from 11am to 1pm. The Activities & Fellowship & Mission Board would like to thank everyone for making the Sock a Rama a fantastic success. Every sock makes a difference.

They received 877 pair of socks.

The socks went to Dysart Community Center.



PLEDGES

Feel free to continue to send in your pledges. Drop a check in the mail or use the giving button on the homepage of the website.

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



**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.**



Match the question to the answer by putting the correct number in the box next to the answer

#	Valentine's Day Trivia Questions	#	Trivia Answers
1	Who was the legendary Benedictine monk who invented champagne?		The liver
2	Which was Shakespeare's most romantic play?		Chocolates
3	What kind of flowers are traditionally given to symbolize love?		The daughter of his jailer
4	What other gift sometimes accompanies a bouquet of red roses?		Romeo & Juliet
5	Who did the fictional St Valentine send his message to?		Cupid
6	What had St Valentine allegedly done for his jailer's daughter?		Red Roses
7	In medieval times, which internal organ was believed to cause love?		Venus
8	Which Roman god was depicted as a plump cherub?		Box of Chocolate
9	Who was Cupid's mother?		Don Perignon
10	In Japan, what do women give men on Valentine's Day?		Cured her blindness



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Representatives from a dozen different churches in Sun City have produced services for the Week of Prayer which are now available to be watched online. The theme this year is "Abide in My love...You shall bear much fruit". To fully abide in Him, we need each other. This is an attempt to affirm the oneness Jesus prayed for in the upper room.

We invite the parishioners of the church you serve to view these services which can be found on YouTube. For days 1, 2, 4, & 5 search for 'Sun City Week of Prayer'. For Day 3, search for 'Sun City Week of Christian Unity 2021 Day 3' Encourage the congregants to click on 'Subscribe' and when this site gets 100 subscriptions, YouTube will permanently establish the site for the churches in Sun City.

Bob Malsack (facilitator for the Week of Prayer for Sun City)

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 OFFICE CLOSED
7 7:00 am Worship online. Communion	8	9	10	11	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 OFFICE CLOSED
14 7:00 am Worship online. HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY Birthday Sunday	15 Presidents Day Office Closed	16 Fat Tuesday Happy Mardi Gras 	17 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins 11:00 am online service	18	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 OFFICE CLOSED
21 7:00 am Worship online. First Sunday of Lent	22	23	24	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED
28 7:00 am Worship online. Second Sunday of Lent						

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Facebook: United Church of Sun City

*Happy
Valentine's
Day*

February 2021

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage Sun City, AZ

Permit No. 262

Or Current Resident

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 9:00am to 12:00pm—Monday through Thursday

The office is closed on Friday and Major Holidays

Sunday Worship Service—7:00am online

Coffee Fellowship—Suspended until further notice

Communion the 1st Sunday of each Month online

Choir rehearsal—Suspended until further notice

Bible Study—Email each week

Healing Service: Suspended until further notice