



# The Chino Valley Chimes

February 2016



### *Happening this month:*

- Feb 3 ~ Men's Prayer Breakfast
- Feb 3 ~ UMW
- Feb 10 ~ **6pm ASH WEDNESDAY service**
- Feb 11 ~ Soul Sisters
- Feb 15 ~ **OFFICE CLOSED: PRESIDENTS' DAY**
- Feb 17 ~ Finance
- Feb 20 ~ Missions Soup Supper
- Feb 20 ~ **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**
- Feb 26 ~ High School Choir Dinner & Program
- Feb 27 ~ Final Harvest Program

- ◇ **Staff Meeting— Mondays, 8-9am**
- ◇ **Bible Study —Mondays, 5pm**
- ◇ **Choir Rehearsals— Wednesdays, 6pm**

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## *Final Harvest returns*



Final Harvest will present a family-oriented musical program at 3:00 pm, Saturday, February 27, at the Chino Valley United Methodist Church. Through their unique and intricate harmonies, Final Harvest communicates the Gospel of Jesus, the Messiah; the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

Their wide range of music style includes southern gospel, contemporary, original, classical, and inspirational music. Their love for God and all with whom they come in contact cannot be denied. The message of God's last call for His final harvest, rather than the music, is of utmost importance and the reason why they sing.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy their music and message. A love offering will be received, and light refreshments served after the program.

## *Why Ashes?*

In "A Service for Worship for Ash Wednesday" in the United Methodist Book of Worship, two suggestions of what worship leaders may say as they make the sign of the cross on another's forehead are offered: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," and "Repent, and believe the gospel." Each points to an aspect of what the ashes represent.

Remember that you are dust...

Ashes were an ancient symbol of our humanity. In Genesis, we read that God formed human beings out of the dust of the earth (Genesis 2:7). The Hebrew word translated dust, is occasionally translated ashes elsewhere. (Genesis 18:27).

*Continued on page 3*

# *From the Pastor*



## **Pastor Appreciation**

Clergy Appreciation Month is usually October. I know and have served churches whose people appreciate their pastors in sincere and meaningful ways throughout the year. I also know settings where Clergy Appreciation Month lives down to its origins as the religious trinket industry's made-for-marketing guilt-generator.

Give the Pastor a card (preferably filled with currency), make nice, one Sunday out of 52, preferably with a cake, and you've checked that box for another year.

What if more of us in more places appreciated and loved our pastors enough to help them discover more joy and less desperation in ministry?

Granted, pastors can also help themselves by learning to do some things differently and to do some different things.

Shared ownership is the most effective way to do ministry. One major source of pastoral burnout is the expectation by laity that the "hired hand"/"holy one" do the congregation's ministry because it's his/her job. Clergy perpetuate this heresy because it fills our need to be needed; because we'd

rather not risk trying to change things (and the potential disasters attempted change can bring); or because we just don't know where to start, we don't know how or whom to ask, and/or we're simply unwilling to ask for help.

Early Christians understood that we are all priests: "...a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV) Priests/pastors mediate between people and God. We point people toward God. We help them recognize God in daily life. We lift people before God in prayer. Nobody else can serve as effectively as a priest/mediator/bridge to God where you live your life as you can. All who follow Jesus, clergy and laity, are priests, called and empowered to share the story of "*him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*"

Recognize and accept that being the church and being a pastor have become far more challenging. Church isn't what it used to be back in the day—whenever your "Good Old Day" was. Church has changed, and so has leading a church. Demanding that pastors and church function "the way we've always done it" is killing us. We can't go backward. We can only go forward—together. (I'll preach the rest of this sermon another time.)

Support your pastor's efforts to help move the congregation forward into the future and outward into the community. The clearest sign of terminal illness in a church is that it has turned inward upon itself and backward toward its past, rather than outward toward its community and forward toward the future. We've circled the wagons. We tell each other we're going to make it no matter what's going on outside our four walls. That fortress mentality is literally a killer.

The way to life is to throw open the doors and windows, get outside and participate in the life going on around us; to become Christ for our neighbors by our presence, deed, and word (often in that order). Transformational change is possible and far from easy. It requires much prayer, persistence, unity of purpose, Spirit-fueled imagination, and bold humility ready to release traditions and practices that block our way forward and outward and embrace new traditions and practices.

Don't rubber-stamp your pastor's efforts to move your church forward to today's best practices and outward to meet your neighbors and offer them Christ in deed and word. Collaborate prayerfully and creatively to discover your new direction. And if, by some chance, you and some of your brothers and sisters in Christ are ready to move but the pastoral feet are dragging—give him/her a firm, loving shove toward the future and your neighbors!

Peace and grace,  
Pastor Mike

# *Notes from the Lay Leader*



Well, 2016 is moving along. The Monday evening class finished "Let's Go Fishing" before Christmas. The course looked at the connectionalism of the church, an understanding of God's grace, what we as Methodists believe, and several other interesting topics all concerned with our church.

Now we are studying "This Holy Mystery; A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion" by Gayle Carlton Felton. The book is written so that we, as United Methodists, can have an understanding of Holy Communion. For the first time in our history, the denomination has an official, comprehensive statement of the practice and theology of the Lord's Supper.

Several short courses are being looked at to start after Easter. All are welcome!

I will be filling the pulpit at Haven UMC in Jerome on 31 January. Pastor Janet will be here to deliver the sermon.

See you in church.  
Roger

## *Why Ashes? Continued from page 1*

When Abraham felt the need to acknowledge the difference between him, a human being, and the infinite God, he referred to himself as dust and ashes. "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the Lord," he said, "I who am but dust and ashes" (Genesis 18:27).

...and to dust you shall return

Our humanity also calls to mind our mortality. After expulsion from the Garden of Eden, the first human beings are told by God, "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19 NRSV). We know the day is coming for each of us when we will return to dust.

Receiving the imposition of ashes is a powerful way to confront our humanity and mortality. They remind us that we are not God, but God's good creation. In them we recognize that our bodies will not last forever, and come face-to-face with the reality of our eventual death.

Repent...

Ashes also signify our sorrow for the mistakes we have made. People in ancient times wore sackcloth and ashes as a way of expressing their repentance of their sins.

When Jonah reluctantly preached to the people of Nineveh after the giant fish spit him up on the beach, the King and his people put on sackcloth and sat in ashes. God saw this act of repentance and spared the people (Jonah 3:1-10).

In the New Testament Jesus mentions this practice. Warning the cities of Chorazin and Bethsaida Jesus said, "if the miracles done among you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have changed their hearts and lives and put on funeral clothes and ashes a long time ago." (Matthew 11:21 CEB).

When we participate in the service of ashes, we confront our sin. We recognize our inability to live up to all God has created us to be, and our need to be forgiven. No matter how often we go to church, how far we have come in our spiritual journeys, how accomplished we may feel, each of us has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

...and believe the gospel

While this may sound fatalistic, it is not the end of the story. Lent leads to Easter, the day we celebrate that though our bodies are temporary and our lives are flawed, a day of resurrection will come when we will live in the presence of God forever.

One Wednesday every year we go to church remembering who we are, and hopeful of who we can be.

## *Beyond fasting: 10 tips for a more meaningful Lent*

Lent is a time for self-reflection and deepening one's relationship with God in Jesus Christ. For many this season leading up to Easter will be weeks of giving up something they enjoy as a sign of contrition for mistakes they have made. Others will spend extra time in devotions and prayer, while a few more will carry a cross or nail in their pocket as a reminder of the sacrifice Jesus made for them and the whole world.

If those practices work for you, wonderful! Others may want to find different ways of observing this holy season. Consider adopting one or more of the following creative uses of the days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday.

Giving up something for Lent isn't the only way to observe the season. Here are 10 creative alternatives.

**1. Apologize to someone:** Lent is a season of repentance. Most often we think of asking God for forgiveness from our sin, but that is only half of the story. Most sins include hurting others, which mattered to Jesus. He taught that if during worship if you "remember that your brother or sister has something against you... First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift." (Matthew 5:23-24 CEB). Lent is a great time to seek forgiveness from those we have harmed.

**2. Perform random acts of kindness:** Express your love for Jesus by loving others. Pay for the order of the person behind you in the drive-through. Give an extravagant tip. Carry gift cards to give away. Ask others how they are doing, then stop and listen to their responses. Share the love of Jesus in any way you can think of each day during Lent.

**3. Delve into a book of the Bible:** Enhance your devotions by

getting to know a book of the Bible well. Read it repeatedly, at least once in a single sitting. Find articles about it. Meditate on it with a commentary. Memorize portions of it. Pray through it. Google sermons about it. Find hymns based upon it. In the six weeks of Lent, you could develop a deep understanding of a book of the Bible about which you have always been curious.

**4. Serve people in need:** Identify an organization with which you would like to participate. Sign up and get trained. Then volunteer to serve throughout the season of Lent. When Jesus washed his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, he taught that we are called not to be served, but to serve (John 13:1-17).

**5. Visit the lonely:** Jesus also taught his disciples to treat others as we would treat him. This included visiting those who are sick and in prison (Matthew 25:31-36). Talk to a local nursing home about washing wheelchairs, or a children's hospital about visiting with parents of patients. Volunteer with a prison ministry, senior center, or any other place where people need some human contact. Play games, tell stories, look at photo albums, and enjoy those about whom Jesus said, "when you have done it for [them], you have done it for me."

**6. Read Wesley's sermons about the Sermon on the Mount:** These 13 sermons (available online) are central to the message of John Wesley. They make up a little more than one-quarter of the fifty "Standard Sermons" he gave to his Methodist lay preachers to teach them "the essentials of true religion" ("The Sermons of John Wesley – An Introduction"). Reading these sermons will have you focused on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) and give you a sense of what it means to be a United Methodist in the tradition of John Wesley.

**7. Tell others you love them:** Some of us struggle to say those three little words. Maybe we assume others already know how we feel. Maybe we think we show our love and don't need to say it. Or maybe we are concerned it won't be reciprocated. Fight the fear and say "I love you" to friends, family members, and everyone else you love at least once during the season.

**8. Throw a party for everyone:** Jesus often used the image of a party to describe the Kingdom of God. He talked about wedding receptions and banquet feasts, and participated in several large group celebrations. Host your own Kingdom party by cooking for the neighborhood, or buying lunch for the entire office or your church. Feed everyone you can and give people an opportunity to be together.

**9. Serve in worship:** Your church needs you. Sing in the choir, usher, serve as a reader, work with the tech team, help a young family with their baby, or find some other way to serve your church. Don't wait for someone to ask you to use your God-given gifts. Offer yourself in service to your church for the season.

**10. Say "thank you":** Parents, family members, mentors, coaches, teachers, authors, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and others have shaped you into the person you are. Each week during Lent, send a note of gratitude to one of them. Tell them how much they meant to you and how they inspired you. Consider including a small gift. Even if you do not know that author or speaker personally, draft an email of thanks.

**There are many ways to be observant during Lent.  
Be original. Find yours.**

# A FUN Fundraiser!

Remember when you were a little kid in Sunday School, and it was your birthday you got to put pennies in the birthday jar. It would be a proud moment for you to be able to count out the pennies for the number of years you were and everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to you. Well, one of our wonderful members thought it would be neat to have that excitement again. How, you might ask? Will you have to come up to the front of the church and count out your pennies, actually it would be dollars? Remember the word inflation? No, we wouldn't make you do that.



The Finance committee chewed on this idea over way to help with our budget this year. Here is how



birthday cake and decided it might be a fun it would work:



When your birthday Sunday is here and your name is on the screen, YES we will sing to you, but you won't have to count out your age in dollars in front of the congregation. This would be a total volunteer option. You would be able to be anonymous, especially if you don't want anyone to know your age, by putting cash in an envelop and dropping it in the offering plate for as many years that you have celebrated your birthday. OR, if you are really proud of how old you actually are, but never act your age, you might want to write a check. Write on the envelop or check "SPECIAL BIRTHDAY TREAT" or something like that.

Many of us are on a fixed budget and would not be able to afford the extra dollars, but if you are able to donate even a little extra for our church, it would be much appreciated.

Celebrate your birthday with abandon this year, knowing that you are still a "Child of God"!



## People Who Care

People Who Care is an organization that helps members of the community, both here in Chino Valley and in Prescott. Some of their ministries include driving people to medical

appointments, taking people shopping, occasional sitting with the homebound, helping with other needs. As many of you know, People Who Care has a lending "closet" here, with walkers, wheel chairs, and many other items.

The Prescott office of People Who Care hosts an orientation on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Occasional orientations are held in Chino Valley as well. If you are interested in helping or learning more about this ministry,

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION



UNITED  
METHODIST  
WOMEN

## UMW 2016 WOW!

The United Methodist Women (UMW) now have funds for the current year, thanks to the generosity of those who donated and purchased the beautiful & unusual baskets in the silent Auction at the Christmas Dinner.

All the December events were planned & enjoyed by many, with the help of Our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We will be starting the year, a bit late, with our planning meeting on Wed. Feb 3 at 1pm. I hope to see all the regular members & any members of the Church family interested in learning more about the plight of women & children around the world. We will see how we have made changes.

We need your ideas & suggestions for the rest of the year. With your help, it will be an exciting & interesting, informative year.

See YOU Wed., Feb 3 at 1pm.

In His service,,  
Nancy Mitchell,  
President



The next Men's Prayer Breakfast will be Wednesday, February 3, at 7:30 am.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Pastor Mike will be away at the annual Clergy Gathering from Tuesday, February 2 through Thursday, February 4. If you have an emergency, please call the church office, 636-2969. We can get a message to him.

If you call him directly, please leave a message on his cell phone and he will get back to you when he is able to do so.

Dear Ladies of CVUMC.

When I was living in Sun City West, several of the Ladies of our church began a group that we called "Soul Sisters." We met once a month for fellowship and we would also support some of the programs at the church (like Angel Tree and the Crop Walk to name two.) I have recently talked to some of you to see if there would be an interest in starting a similar group here at Chino Valley UMC and met with a positive response. So, I am proposing an "Exploratory" gathering at my home on Thursday February 11 at 5:00 p.m. It will be pot luck with appetizers. Please bring something to share and we can "talk about it." I think it will be a lot of fun.

Let me know if you can make it or are interested by emailing me at [jekeffer@gmail.com](mailto:jekeffer@gmail.com) or you can call/email the church and Sue Piper will let me know.

Janet E. Keffer (your pastor's wife)  
2445 W Road One South





## Greeting from the Finance Committee

Summary of 2016 Stewardship campaign: 33 persons/families pledged at total of almost \$64,000. This compares to 39 pledges and nearly \$72,000 for 2015, and 43 pledges and \$85,000 for 2014.

As a general rule, it is hoped to have 50% or more of the church budget fulfilled by pledges. This year the percentage is 42%. As you can see, our Church has seen a steady decline in both the number and amount of pledges over the years. We in the Finance committee are asking "Why?", but we have not come up with an explanation.

We sincerely wish to thank those who have pledged, especially those who have pledged for the first time, and those who have increased their pledge amount. And, as a reminder, all Church members can begin or change a pledge at any time. Pledge cards will be kept in the Narthex. Please consider starting a pledge.

As a quick year end financial summary, with new fundraising projects and cost cutting efforts, the Church's total financial situation was down only about \$1,000 from last year. There certainly will be challenges ahead with the cost of everything going up, especially our ever increasing utility expenses.

On another matter, with the help of several personal donations, and the commitment of the Congregation, the CVMC was able to meet our 2015

Apportionment obligation. Since our Church is part of the United Methodist Worldwide Community, you can feel good that we are doing our part in keeping the Church visible locally, District wide and Worldwide!

One last word, keep an ear out for a different way we may be celebrating birthdays during Church services. A long time member suggested a fun and exciting way to do this. More to come...

Praise the Lord, and blessings to all,

Ray Benny  
Chair, Finance Committee.

## HEADS UP !!

Coming events:

**Saturday, Feb. 20**—Missions Soup Supper, details to follow.

**Friday, Feb. 26**—High School Choir Dinner and Program ~ fundraiser for trip to Washington DC.



PLEASE MAKE THESE  
CHANGES IN YOUR  
DIRECTORY

No changes this month.

A revised directory will be sent out by early February. Please let the office know if you need a copy.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries



## BIRTHDAYS

- 2/1 Sally Reese
- 2/10 Donald Mastin
- 2/13 Dan Terry
- 2/13 Beth Vandenberg
- 2/15 David Starnes
- 2/16 Doug Roberts
- 2/20 Joseph Culjak
- 2/20 Andrew Lam
- 2/20 Pete Mensing
- 2/21 Jan Harlow
- 2/21 Cindy Myers
- 2/21 Tina Rodriguez
- 2/26 Don Warren

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 2/3 Bill & Sue Mitchell
- 2/19 Bill & Diane Harris



## BIRTHDAYS

- 3/4 Marlys Benny
- 3/5 Kerry Phippen
- 3/6 Irene Rampley
- 3/9 Deryl Jevons
- 3/17 Pat Jones
- 3/22 Jim Moses

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3/8 George & Joani Rose
- 3/18 Chuck & Lu Magoon

## February Liturgists

### 2nd Service

- 7 Janet Warren
- 14 Todd Hoeffner
- 21 Monte Colucci
- 28 David Starnes

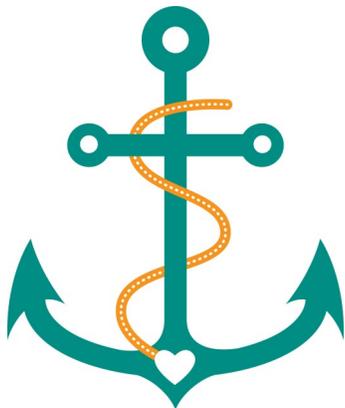
## February Readers

### 1st Service

- 7 Roxann Lathrop
- 14 Available
- 21 Available
- 28 Available

*If you are interested in reading at the 1st service on Sunday, please sign up in the Narthex.*

## + Christian Symbols +



### Anchor

Because in ancient times an anchor represented safety, early Christians adopted it as a symbol of their hope in Christ. "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). Word play may have been involved: ankura, Greek for "anchor," sounds similar to en kurio, or "in the Lord." As Latin became Christians' primary language, however, the "anchor-Lord" connection would have faded.

# FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.

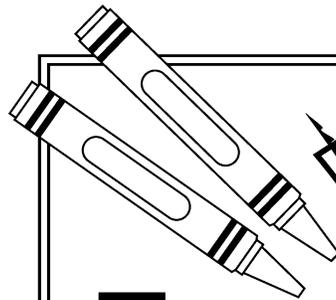


## What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

## What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include “Give someone a hug,” “Clean someone’s room,” “Read to someone” and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!



# PUZZLE

## True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend?  
The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

*Directions: Starting at the \*, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

### WORD BANK:

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27:9, NIV

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27:9, NIV

At a time of deep struggle in Elijah’s life, God made his presence known to him. How?

- A. In a strong and destructive wind
- B. In an earthquake
- C. Through fire
- D. Through silence



Answer: (See 1 Kings 19:9-12, NRSV.)

**CHINO VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—12 noon

*If you do not wish to receive this publication,  
please contact the church office.*

## **LESSER KNOWN CHURCH FACTS**

**“God speaks to us  
before the service.  
We speak to God  
during the service.  
We speak to each  
other after the  
service.”**

Many people have heard this saying, and yet often the time before the church service becomes a time to catch up with others, to talk about upcoming events, to

visit with people we haven't seen for a few days, to work on church business, etc.

Recently, people have commented on how noisy it is in the Sanctuary before the services begin. They come early for church to take time to pray and meditate before the service begins. They are unable to do this, however, when there is a lot of talking going on around them. Even the Sunday School students have commented on how noisy the hallway is before church.

We ask, therefore, that you be considerate of others in church and restrict your conversations before church to the Narthex, the kitchen, or out-of-doors.

Thank you for your consideration.