



The Chino Valley Chimes

May 2020



Happening this month:

All events cancelled until further notice for health conditions.

- ◇ **Weekday Adult Study ~ Mondays, 10am**
- ◇ **Sunday Adult Study, 9am**
- ◇ **Choir Rehearsals ~ Wednesdays, 3pm**

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"New Normal"

At of this writing, we have received a letter from the Bishop (attached), stating that there will be no services or meetings until further notice. It is important, for all of us, to follow the directions of the governor and the Bishop, as well as our own common sense, in what is appropriate to do at this time, in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. This is especially important in the light of our senior congregation.

To this end, we are not adding a calendar to this issue of the Chimes. Please watch your email, the church website, and the phone tree for updates on services and meetings. We have had some successful meetings via Zoom (a computer program) and will continue with those as needed.

The church office remains **closed** until further notice. If you drive by, you may see a car or two, as essential employees and volunteers must be there from time to time.

However, **PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE OFFICE.**

If you need to contact any of the office staff, please leave a message on the church phone (636-2969) or send an email to the office (chinovalleymc@gmail.com) and we will return your call or message. Both are checked regularly every day.

We all hope it will be safe to get together again in person in the near future.

The Upper Room

We have received 10 copies of "The Upper Room" publication for May and June. Since the office and church are currently closed, we would be happy to mail you a copy of the publication for a \$2.50 donation, which covers the cost of the booklet plus postage.

PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THE OFFICE TO PICK UP A COPY. You can call the office (636-2969) or email (chinovalleymc@gmail.com) and we will get it off to you as quickly as possible. Remember, the office is not open and there is not someone there on a daily basis.

From the Pastor



Happy Easter, Church,

Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed! Yep, the season of Easter lasts 50 days, and I've taken that feasting business pretty darn seriously even without enjoying one of our delightful potlucks.

How about you? How is everyone fairing with our order to stay home? I've gained a few pounds and I desperately need a haircut. You just might not recognize me when we are together again. I long to be with you all and to give God thanks and praise in worship.

As Christians, we know that Easter is not just one day but a 50-day period. The season of Easter (Eastertide) began at sunset on the eve of Easter Sunday and it ends on Pentecost, the day we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church.

The season of Easter is more than just an extended celebration of the resurrection

of Jesus. In the early church, the initial purpose of the 50 days was to continue the faith formation of the newly baptized Christians.

Today, the extended season gives us time to rejoice and experience what it means when we say Christ is risen. It's the season when we remember our baptisms and how, through this sacrament, we are "incorporated into Christ's mighty acts of salvation." As "Easter people," we celebrate and consider the birth of the church and gifts of the Spirit (Pentecost), and we continue to reflect on how we are to live as faithful disciples of Christ.

So, I would ask us all to be sharing our baptism stories and pictures with one another. Celebrating baptism builds up the Body of Christ and we all grow in the reality of Resurrection.

My hope and prayer is that we all continue to share Christ with all the people we encounter. Let us continue to be church wherever we are.

Blessings and much love,

Pastor Clare



IMPORTANT UPDATE

April 23, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of the
Desert Southwest Conference,

I greet you in the name and
spirit of Jesus, our Rock and
Redeemer!

Like many of us, I have missed
the rhythms of the church: in-person
worship, coffee and conversation,
potlucks, hugs, Bible studies and
fellowship. You may likewise be feeling
lost, and displaced, living in a
wilderness, wandering. Despite our
efforts to adapt, we long for things to
be back as they used to be.

At the same time, I have
watched grim statistics of COVID-19
in Nevada and Arizona where the
numbers are continuing to rise
dramatically.

On March 24, in Nevada, 275
persons tested positive and 6 died. On
that same day, Arizona had 329 cases
and 6 deaths.

A month later, on April 23,
Nevada's count was 4,208 cases, 189
deaths; and Arizona reported 5,769
cases, 249 deaths. On the same day,
the numbers on the Navajo Nation
reported 1,282 cases and 49 deaths.

We have not yet seen the worst
of the ravages of the novel coronavirus
(nCoV). Additionally, the medical
community is warning us that a
second occurrence is possible,
especially when communities relax
restrictions too soon. **Therefore, I am
directing that United Methodist
churches continue the suspension
of in-person worship and other
gatherings of any size until
further notice.** I will be monitoring
the situation and I will communicate
each Wednesday on our website with
an update about the suspension.

I wish I could more accurately
predict when we can resume our
activities. I know we won't be able to
resume everything at once. It will be a

gradual, careful process. It is also clear that we will not soon, if
ever, return to being church exactly as we were before. This is
difficult news to receive, but I pray you will not rush to resume
church activities.

Your conference leadership is reading, consulting, praying
daily, studying what experts are saying. We are monitoring:

The recommendations from sources such as the CDC, state
governments, and the medical and scientific communities; Criteria
that must be met before relaxing the suspension. These criteria
include the availability of more testing, the assurance that the
healthcare system will be able to handle any possible influx of
patients, and the assurance of protection for the vulnerable
populations of our communities; Our preparedness to
systematically initiate a phased approach to re-opening; and if
necessary, to reinstitute restrictions quickly if the virus resurges;
How we would safely re-open our churches and ministries in
phases.

Our conference Connectional Ministries staff is compiling an
important resource to assist you in planning for the re-opening of
our physical buildings and a resumption of in-person ministry. The
day of re-opening is not yet upon us, but it will come. Until then,
let me restate my directive to the Desert Southwest
Conference. Our United Methodist churches must continue the
suspension of in-person worship and other gatherings of any size
until further notice. I will be monitoring the situation and will
communicate each Wednesday with an update about the
suspension.

As Romans 12:12 admonishes, let's keep patient even in this
perplexing time. Keep learning and experiencing new ways of
being in ministry. Remember that your local church continues to
have financial obligations it must fulfill, so please, if possible,
continue your generous support of your local church through mail
in or on-line giving. Care for one another with cards, letters, phone
calls, emails, texts to share God's love and your caring with others.
Do your best to keep yourself healthy and thereby protect the
vulnerable among us.

As I hold you in prayer, I ask you to pray fervently for:

Those who are battling or who have died of COVID-19 and
their families and loved ones; First responders and healthcare
workers; business owners; families, parents and children in the
communities around us; Communities in Arizona and Southern
Nevada without access to basic provisions like running water or
adequate healthcare or community resources; Our congregations
and our families and loved ones.

Let us hold one another in the spirit of Jesus the Christ as
we rejoice in hope, remain patient in suffering, and persevere in
prayer (from Romans 12:12).

Blessings,
Bishop Bob



West District

Desert Southwest Conference

THE CHINO VALLEY CHIMES

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 21, 2020

Chino Valley United Methodist Church
735 E. Road One South
Chino Valley, AZ 86323-1869

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Lord and savior, Jesus, the Christ.

I want to share with you that after a time of prayer and consultation Bishop Robert Hoshibata intends to appoint the Pastor Clare Sullivan as pastor of Liberty United Methodist Church in Buckeye, Arizona effective July 1, 2020. Pastor Sullivan will continue to serve Chino Valley UMC until June 30, 2020. We are grateful for the ways Pastor Clare has helped you grow in discipleship and for the many ways you have served Christ together. As this season of ministry draws to a close, I hope you will find ways to express to each other love and appreciation for the work you have done and the memories you have made.

It is with thanksgiving and anticipation that I share with you that Bishop Robert T. Hoshibata intends to appoint Pastor Bob Gilfert to serve as pastor of Chino Valley UMC, effective July 1, 2020. Through a process of prayerful discernment, the Bishop and Cabinet believe Pastor Gilfert has the gifts and skills to lead Chino Valley United Methodist Church into this new season of ministry. Pastor Gilfert is currently serving at St John's United Methodist Church in Kingman, Arizona.

We trust that God will continue to strengthen and guide you all during this transition and as you walk together into this new season. "May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 5:5.

The Bishop and our Cabinet pray for Pastor Sullivan, Pastor Gilfert, and all three congregations during this time of transition. May you each find vital, fruitful ministry in this next season of ministry.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Nancy Cushman
District Superintendent - West District

Notes from the Lay Leader



Greetings from the comfort of my home to yours!

Yes, we are living in uncharted and trying times. While somewhat isolated from what we are normally used to doing outside our home, God has given us an opportunity and challenge for renewal and reflection. How does this relate to our faith?

For many, this year has been a first. No preparing our church for services. No music. No Sunday school. No Bible study. No feeling of comfort when hearing the word of God through Scripture and message, praying together, or the sanctity of communion. No fellowship. No Lenten or Easter services. No palms to wave or lay at the cross. No fragrant Easter lilies filling the sanctuary with sweet perfume. No choir rehearsing and singing joyous Easter songs. No being together with family and friends. I'd say quite a lot of "No's"!

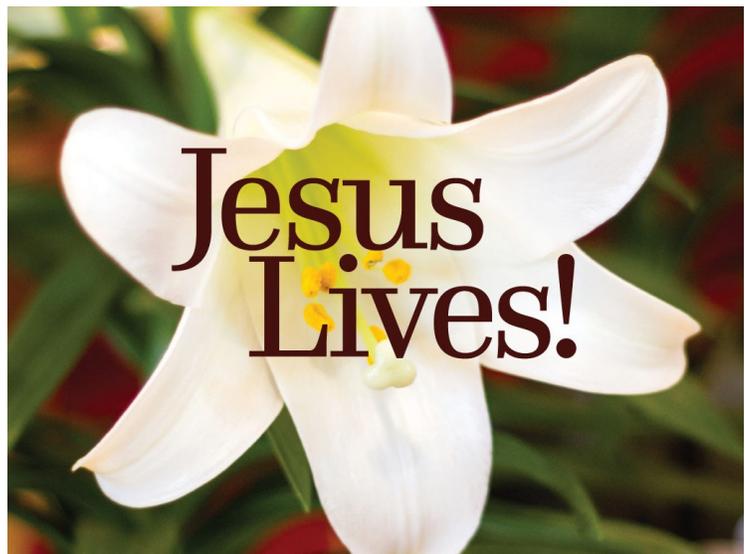
But in reality the "No"! this and "No"! that" has developed into a mindset of and taking the bull by the horns into a "Yes"! this and "Yes"! that.

One of the "Yes" moments is that through social media, we were able to have our Lenten and Easter services brought to us, right in the comfort of our home. What joy to have that connection! They say where there is a will, we Christians will find a way!

And there are many more "yes" moments; realizing as Christians, we have shown that we do make the best of something out of our control. We are strong in faith. We pray and pray some more. We are loving, giving and caring. We are worthy. We are resilient. We will come back stronger. We will be together soon to greet, hug and shake hands with each other. We can improve ourselves and who we are. And yes, we are so much more.

May all of you stay healthy, stay safe, stay connected with family and friends, but most of all know that Hallelujah – He Is Alive and Truly Risen!

Sandy Jones



Committees and Groups



It is unknown what is going to happen in May. So far the church will be closed.

If the church opens you will be informed by email about the status of our May meeting. The hopeful plan is to have a meeting on May 6. If the meeting goes on it is open to all men of the church and guest.

There will be a breakfast at 7:30 AM and the meeting will start about 8 AM. I would like to ask all of the men to pray for the people who are effected by this virus and their families.

You guys take it easy and stay well.

Bob Haslett

DEUTERONOMY 26:10, NRSV

So now I bring
the first fruit of the ground
that you, O Lord,
have given me.



In these unusual times, we encourage the members of the congregation to continue with their giving as much as you are able. We still have bills to pay, as well as employees.

There are several ways you can send your contributions to the church:

- Mail your contribution.
- Drop your contribution into the church mailbox, to your left as you drive into the church parking lot.
- ♦ Use bill pay at your bank
- ♦ Set up e-giving.

If you are interested in e-giving or bill pay and aren't sure how to start, call Ray Benny (848-2158) and he will walk you through the process. It's easy!



REMEMBER—

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Committees and Groups, etc.

FINANCE COMMITTEE



Greetings from Ray Benny,
Finance Chairperson,

Well, we seem to making it through this virus event, even though its seems to be taking a long time... Maybe in several weeks or so, we can return to some sort of normalcy in our lives. For me, this year has been my worst for allergies. I hope others are not being affected by other winter/spring type health issues.

One concern though, we are all getting older and often face new crises that we didn't have in our younger days. We pray to the Lord for hope and guidance!

I wish to thank those many church members who are continuing to provide their giving to the church by mail, dropping them in the church mail box or by mail. The church office is not open, although essential employees and volunteers may be there from time to time.

We ask all members to step up and continue your giving in support of the church.

Because of the giving received, the church has been able to maintain its finances with only a slight decrease in our financial reserve.

Even with payroll work hours being reduced at the church, we are just about breaking even with expenses. The church utilities are somewhat less, but they must still be paid. There are also a number of expenses like insurance, telephone, internet, trash, alarm and security that are fixed no matter if the Church is only minimally open.

As a note to the congregation, since the church is a non-profit organization, 501(C3), we were able to apply through our bank, National Bank of Arizona, the Small Business Administration and the Federal Government, for a Personal Payroll Plan (PPP) loan. We have done so and have been approved. What this will do for us, is to be able to pay our church employees their full average weekly salaries even though they have been on a minimum work schedule. This will help our country, state, communities and employees all over to help in the economic recovery of our nation. In some cases because of the cut back in working hours of so many people, they are not able to pay their rent, mortgage, insurance, utilities, etc. This government program is to aid those affected and keep them afloat.

The PPP loan is for 2 ½ months of wages, with a small amount that can be used to pay utilities. The question is, will this loan be forgiven? When this plan was presented to the citizens of the U.S., it was announced that it could be. There is no definite word yet and we hope that it will be forgiven. In our situation, no matter, the outcome, this loan will keep us from depleting our small financial reserve. If it is not forgiven, we have 2 years at 1% interest to pay it back. Again, this loan keeps us from using our small church cash reserve and keeps our employees at their pay level so that they can continue their lives without additional hardships.

We pray to the Lord that our nation and world can return to normal in the shortest possible time. We also pray for those with health and medical issues. And, mostly the return of normal life for ourselves so we can have church services, church meetings and other social functions.

Ray

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS

5/5	Ilona Dean
5/5	Betsy Terry
5/9	Mark Raisley
5/12	Jessica Benny
5/15	Naomi Richards
5/26	Ann Moses
5/27	Chris Botel
5/31	Diane Judge
5/31	Bill Mitchell

ANNIVERSARIES

5/12	Don Warren & Janet Greer-Warren
5/16	Geoffrey & Nina Lam
5/19	Kevin & Peggy Nelson
5/26	Lewis & Margaret Pehl

May Scripture Readings

May 3—Easter 4

Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23;
1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

May 10—Easter 5

Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16;
1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

May 17—Easter 6

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:8-20;
1 Peter 2:13-22; John 14:15-21

May 21—Ascension Day (Thursday)

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 24:44-53

May 24—Easter 7

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35;
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:5-11; John 17:1-11

May 31—Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13; John 7:37-39

Prayers are asked for..

In our thoughts and prayers this month: Our church & church family, Pastor Clare, our youth, President Trump, our country and its leaders, our military men & women, Chino Valley Police Department, Chino Valley Fire Department, those in nursing homes.

Home bound: Alma Holt, Pat Jones, Bob Reese, Beth Vandenberg, Jack & Janis Heller, Jessica Benny. **Church members:** Pastor Mike Keffer, Terry Braner, Kevin Grell, Deedee McHenry. **Friends & family of members:** Merle Houston, Chris Everidge, Alice Herod, Caitlin, Kyle Larsen, JoAnne Ledbetter, Marge & Don Mastin, Ernie.

If you would like a name added or deleted from the prayer list, please call the church office.

CHINO VALLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

735 East Road One South
Chino Valley, AZ 86323

Phone: 928/636-2969

E-mail: chinovalleymc@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—12 noon

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

Coming Events

**Watch this space each month for
coming events in the next few
months.**

May 21 ~ Feast of the Ascension

May 22 ~ Chimes Deadline

May 24 ~ First combined service of
summer

May 25 ~ Memorial Day - office closed

June 17-21 ~ Desert Southwest Annual
Conference

June 19 ~ Chimes Deadline

June 21 ~ Arizona Pioneer's Home
Service



**All events subject cancellation for health
risks.**