



January 7th, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Desert Southwest Conference, Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

I write this on the day of Epiphany, the day we celebrate the arrival of the magi to worship Jesus. We celebrate the realization, or the epiphany, that the Messiah has come into the world, a message from God that God's love is a precious gift for all. I write this on a day when the democratic process of electing our leadership is being completed in the state of Georgia and is being challenged in the halls of Congress. I write this on a day when we should be celebrating our history and our legacy as a nation that believes in the peaceful transfer of power as well as the right to free expression.



This is also a day when there is rancor, destruction and violence in the streets of our nation's capital and the Capitol building. There are demonstrations in places in our conference where there is likewise anger, frustration, and distrust. We are called to a time of de-escalation of violence. Christ calls us to temper our anger or frustration with good works to benefit others. God asks us to work to make our communities, our nation, and our world, places where peace is proclaimed.

So much is yet ahead of us: the continuing battle against the COVID-19 pandemic; the availability of the vaccines; the safety of our first-responders, front-line workers, educators and students; the recovery of our fragile economy; and the dismantling and eliminating racism and its lingering harm.

I call upon you to join me in prayer for our nation and the world. I call upon you to join me in prayer for our democracy. I call upon you to pray for peace, for reconciliation, and for hope. As faithful United Methodists, we have a responsibility to share the good news that through Christ, we have the assurance that God is always with us. So, with the words of Paul:

“ . . . we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. . . So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4: 16,18, NIV)

Will you join me in praying this prayer:

Eternal God, our Creator, we give heartfelt thanks for the world in which you have placed us. We turn to you as we watch our nation wrought by deep divide over the process of election that draws to a close. Endow our nation with a spirit of reconciliation and peace, that we might emerge from these difficult, contentious moments, into a spirit of light and love made known to us in your son, Jesus Christ.

We ask you to visit us with patience, to quiet our souls. Deliver us from the threatening violence in our streets, wipe away the malice of suspicion of others in our hearts, keep our eyes focused on the vision you give us of the Kin-dom where lion and lamb live together.

As Bishop Ruben P. Job has encouraged us to do no harm, to do good, and to stay in love with you, may we also determine every day that our lives will always be invested in the effort to bring healing instead of hurt; wholeness instead of division; and harmony with the ways of Jesus rather than with the ways of the world.[\[1\]](#)

As we proclaim our faith in you and our love for Christ, let your Spirit reside in our hearts and grant us peace for this time, we pray, in the name of our Shepherd, Jesus, AMEN.

In Christ's love, Bishop Bob

PRAYER REQUESTS –January 3rd, 2021

- Please pray for Margi Ivers and her grandson Evan Ivers. Two months ago her husband Adrian passed away. Saturday morning, January 2, their only child, Jason, passed from this life. He had a congenital blood disorder which causes clotting for which he was on medication his entire life. Margi assumes he threw a clot which took his life. Jason's son, Evan (17) returned home from basketball practice to find his father deceased. Please pray comfort for Margi and Evan.
- Freddy Mangogna requests prayer for Jade and Wendi Gullion. Jade is in the hospital fighting pneumonia, blood clots and multiple organ failure due to Covid-19. Wife Wendi got the results of her test yesterday--positive for Covid. Both are dear and long-time friends, and prayers for God's healing are appreciated.



Conference Prayers:

- **January:** Gold Canyon UMC, First UMC (Temp), First UMC (Mesa), First UMC (Gilbert)



El Tiradito Monthly Virtual Vigil

January 7, 2021, 7:00 p.m, Arizona Time

Happy New Years. Join us this Thursday at 7:00 pm (Mountain Time) for El Tiradito monthly virtual vigil.

About the vigil:

Every first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm activist in Tucson gather at El Tiradito shrine to pray for immigrants who have lost their lives in their journey to the United States. Coalicion de Derechos Humans has carried and led this tradition for 20 years. Please join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83873963364>

Meeting ID: 838 7396 3364

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,83873963364# US (Tacoma)

Music Ministry Moment:



Another great hymn that is more well known for this time of Epiphany in the Christian Year is "Once in Royal David's City" (UMH 250). The music is soft and it flows nicely. The lyrics not only talk about the birth of Jesus, but also parts of his childhood. I was surprised to find out that our current hymnals don't have much material that deals with Christ's childhood, and that each one skips from his birth straight into his ministry.

This is a hymn that I have been listening to and singing for a long time. I can't remember the exact age I was when I first heard and sang this in a church service, but I know it was on many Christmas CD's and cassette tapes around the house when I was younger. What I've always liked about this hymn is that it's a drastic change from the loud joyful we just came from with "Joy to the World" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" to a nice quiet, lyrical joy that is able to give good imagery to Jesus as a youth.

What I read between the lines of this hymn, and the lines of scripture in the Bible, is that Jesus was a normal kid doing normal kid things. Sure, we know what he is to become when he starts his ministry later on, but I like to revel in that he was a kid just like me at some point doing things that kids did at that time: learning, observing, helping with chores, playing, and all sorts of other things.

My hope is that as you listen to this hymn, I hope you're able to find a little bit of your inner youth. My constant prayer is that you and your family are safe and healthy through this pandemic.

With the Spirit of Youthfulness,
Adam

[History of Hymns: "Once in Royal David's City"](#)

[Once in Royal David's City \(Congregational Singing\)](#)

[Once in Royal David's City \(Choral Anthem\)](#)

Chandler UMC Chapel Fellowship

Our Chapel Fellowship will now be EVERY Sunday. Please continue to look for the Zoom information and password through your e-mails.



Supporting UMOM in January

UMOM New Day Centers began in the hearts of people who knew they could do more for those who had less.

In 1964, members of the Desert Southwest Conference of the United Methodist Church (back then called the Arizona Methodist Church Extension Society) created what would come to be known as United Methodist Outreach Ministries or UMOM.

The early work of this faithful group was 'urban-centered ministries' that included relief for transients and backyard playgrounds for impoverished neighborhoods.

UMOM New Day Centers is the largest provider of services for homeless families in the state of Arizona. Their mission is to prevent and end homelessness with innovative strategies and housing solutions that meet the unique needs of each family and individual. Families at UMOM have the opportunity to gain the skills, medical care, quality child care and education they need to rebuild their lives.

Our January Missions offering will be given to UMOM to support families and women UMOM serves.

For more information about UMOM please visit the organization's website at www.umom.org.

How to Give

You can support this month's Missions focus through Chandler UMC through our secure web page giving portal or by mailing a check to Chandler UMC, 450 E Chandler Heights Rd, Chandler, AZ 85249. Please note **UMOM** in the memo line of your check.

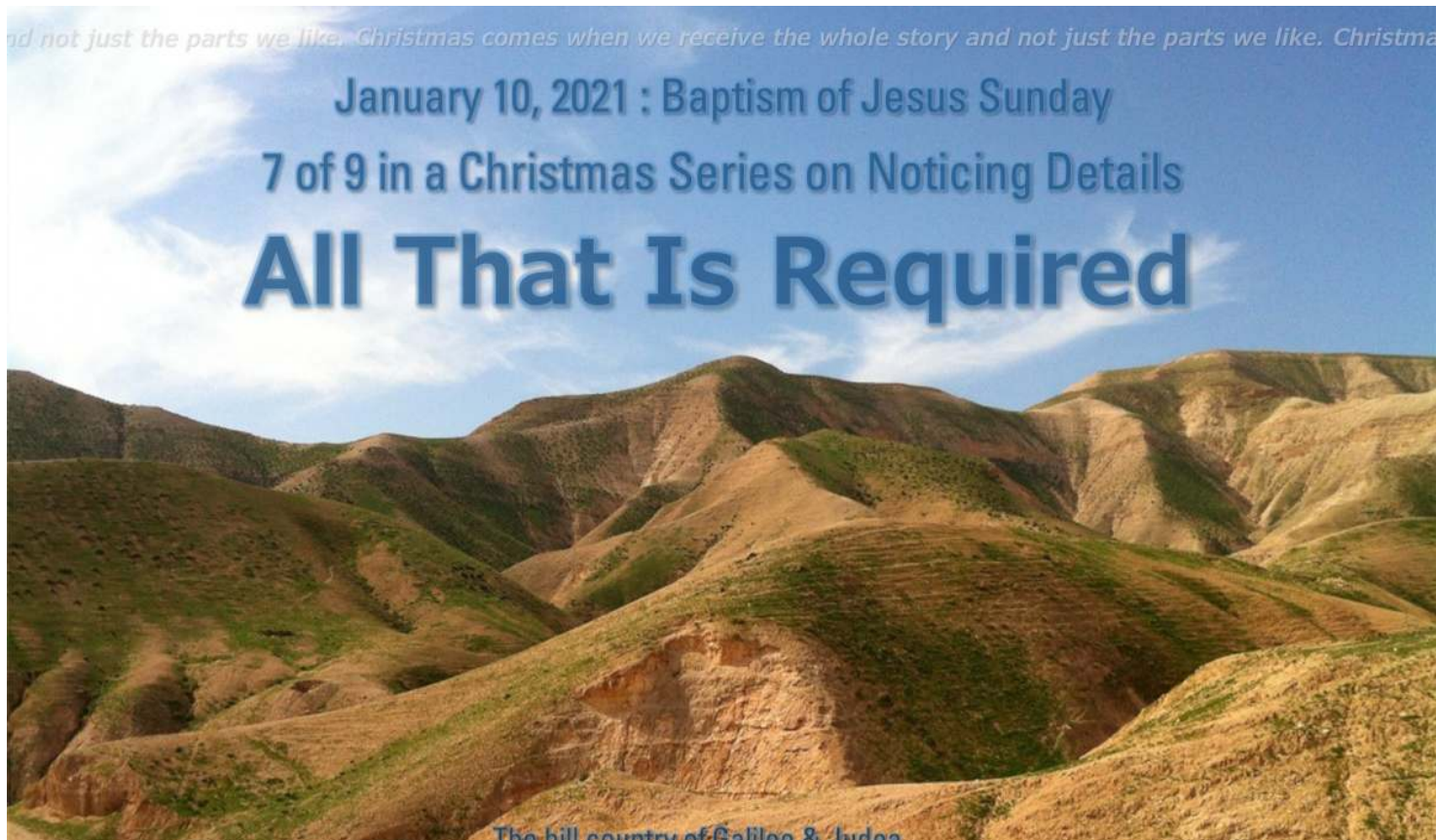
Chandler UMC Missions Team partners with organizations and groups to make a difference throughout our area and throughout the world. Each month's Missions focus provides a way to reach out and express our love and concern for others.

Thank you for your generosity.

Make sure to join us online this weekend as we continue our sermon series!

Scripture: Luke 2:21-38

Sermon: 7 of 9 Noticing Details: All That is Required



Staying Connected!

We have a new online way to take attendance! If at any time you watch the Sunday Sermon we would love to know! Simply fill out our digital connect card that can be found on the bottom of our front page of our website.

<https://chandlermethodist.org/connect-card/>

You may also save the above link on your I-phone or Android as a shortcut to make attendance easy when in person service resumes!

A digital connect card for Chandler United Methodist Church. The card features the church's logo and the text "CHANDLER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH". Below this, it says "CONNECT HERE!" and "We're glad you have joined us today for worship! Please complete this card as your offering of presence and place it in the offering plate or give to any usher." The card includes a "Date:" field, a "Sunday Worship Service attended:" section with checkboxes for "8:30 AM" and "10:00 AM", and a "Please PRINT the information for those attending:" section with fields for "Name(s)", "Names of Children in attendance with you:", "Address:", "City:", "State:", "Zip:", "Phone:", and "E-mail:". At the bottom, there is a section titled "How did you hear about Chandler UMC?" with checkboxes for "I would like someone to contact me", "I would like more information on:", "Children's Ministries", "Young Adult Ministries", "Missions", "Small Groups", "Becoming a Follower of Christ", "Youth Studies/Worship", "Adult & Family Ministries", "Music", and "Congregational Care".

Do you know everything our website has to offer?

It is a great place to download our weekly newsletter, view Rev. Jonathan's daily videos, sermon series, listen to musical pieces from Sherin and read Music Ministries from Adam. Steve also has Sunday School lessons uploaded weekly for the children and youth! These are just a few things our website offers to keep you informed and connected during this pandemic. Check it out!



Here are some important links to help get you started:

Our website:

<https://chandlermethodist.org/>

The link to our Music Ministries page, where you will find music from Adam and Sherin:

<https://chandlermethodist.org/ministries/music/>

The link to the Children's Sunday School page, lesson from Steve will be posted here:

<https://chandlermethodist.org/ministries/children/>

And the Stewardship page, which include updated from Anita MacFadden:

<https://chandlermethodist.org/stewardship/>



We will also be updating our Facebook page regularly. If you like our page it will show up in your feed. Search for Chandler United Methodist Church



An Easier Way to Donate!

Use this QR Code to link to Chandler United Methodist's Paypal Account. Simply open your camera and zoom in on the QR Code, it will ask you to open

a website, click yes and it will take you directly to our Paypal page. This works with Android and I-Phones.



CONNECTIONS



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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Making and Deploying Disciples
for over 100 years