



The Cross and the Flame



August 2026

Mesquite United Methodist Church: August 2026

Volume 35 No. 8

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. August is an important month for many families in our community. Summer is coming to an end, and children and young people are preparing to return to school. Teachers and school staff are getting their classrooms ready, parents are preparing their children, and students are beginning another year of learning, growing, and facing new challenges. As a church family, this is a special time to pray for our children and young people. We pray that God will protect and guide them. We also pray for teachers, school staff, and parents who encourage and support them each day.

"Train children in the right way, and when they are old, they will not stray." — **Proverbs 22:6**

Just as our children return to school to learn and grow, God continues to teach us throughout our lives. Sometimes we learn through blessings, and sometimes through struggles, but through it all, God is with us.



August Worship Theme: Faith Through Every Journey

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God." — **Isaiah 41:10**

Throughout August, our Scriptures remind us that faith grows through every season of life. We may face struggles, storms, broken relationships, or new callings, but God remains faithful and continues to guide us.

August 2 – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Communion Sunday)

Strength Through the Struggle

Genesis 32:22–31; Matthew 14:13–21

Jacob wrestled through the night and was changed by God's blessing. Jesus fed thousands with only five loaves and two fish. God gives us strength in our struggles and provides what we need when we trust Him.



August 9 – Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Keep the Faith and Trust in Jesus

Romans 10:5–15; Matthew 14:22–33

Paul reminds us to believe in Jesus and call on His name. Peter stepped out of the boat but became afraid of the wind and waves. Jesus calls us to keep our faith and trust in Him.



August 16 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Grace That Reaches Beyond Every Barrier

Genesis 45:1–15; Matthew 15:21–28

Joseph chose forgiveness instead of revenge, and a Canaanite woman showed great faith in Jesus. God's grace crosses barriers, heals broken relationships, and brings hope.



August 23 – Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Built on the Rock of Faith

Romans 12:1–8; Matthew 16:13–20

Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah, and Paul calls us to offer our lives to God and use our gifts to serve others. A strong church is built on faith in Christ and transformed lives.



August 30 – Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Youth Sunday)

Following Jesus with Courage

Romans 12:9–21; Matthew 16:21–28

Paul calls us to live with love and kindness. Jesus reminds us that following Him takes courage and commitment. We celebrate our young people and encourage them to follow Christ faithfully every day.



Church Family Highlights:

- **Communion Sunday – August 2**
- **New Member Reception – August 16**
- **Youth Sunday – August 30**
- Back-to-School Prayers for Students, Teachers, and Families
- Sunday Worship and Fellowship Gatherings
- Ongoing Prayer and Caring Ministries
- Outreach and Community Ministries

Please Keep in Prayer:

- Our children and young people returning to school
- Teachers, school staff, and parents
- Those who are sick, hospitalized, or recovering
- Those grieving the loss of loved one
- Our church leaders and ministry teams
- Those serving in our military and their families
- Our community, nation, and world



A special thank you to our church family for your love and generous donations to Patagonia Community United Methodist Church. We also thank Faith for making the trip to Patagonia and carrying the love of Mesquite United Methodist Church through your donations to their Vacation Bible School and Thrift Store.

We also give a special thank you to Andy Wentzel for his time and dedication in setting up our Carillon Bells. The beautiful sound of the bells is a blessing to our church and reaches beyond our walls into the community. We are grateful for Andy's faithful service in making this ministry possible.

Interested in becoming a member? We will receive new members on Sunday, August 16, 2026. If you would like to join our church family, please let Pastor Malakai or Sue in the church office know.

As we journey through August, may we continue to grow in faith, trust God's guidance, and share the love of Jesus wherever we go. Thank you for your prayers, faithfulness, generosity, and commitment to the ministry of Mesquite United Methodist Church.

With Grace and Peace, **Pastor Malakai Pahulu**



Prayer Meeting
with Larry Lycan
Wednesday, August 19
3:00 PM



Monday
August 10
9:00 AM

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!
Come & help us with some sewing projects! Ironing fabric, cutting squares, tying quilt tops, laying out quilt patterns, etc.!



*There is NO Finance
Meeting in August-*



*You are
free to
have
fun
instead!*

MISSION

Monday, August 17
9:30 AM

Security & Safety Meeting



August 3
4:00 PM

YOUTH SUNDAY

August 30th

Come & support our youth!



Change or Renew?

First, I want to thank everyone who volunteers their time and talent by serving as part of one of the ministries of Mesquite United Methodist Church. Your contributions in this way are greatly appreciated.

However, this time of year is when we confirm those who wish in 2027 to renew and continue their work in the same ministry, would like to try serving in another ministry, or need to withdraw from a ministry for any reason. Our nominating group is charged with adding or replacing anyone needed in a particular ministry. These nominations must be prepared before our annual All Church or Charge Conference, usually held in September in recent years.

The ministry memberships acted on at the annual church conference are:

Advertising
Connecting Circles
Endowment
Fellowship
Stewardship & Finance
Memorial

Missions
Membership
SPRC
Trustees
Worship



If you want to withdraw from a particular service, please let the leader of that group know, and also let either Sue Compton (as church secretary) or me (Pat Harger, Lay Leader) know so that the Nominating group can find a replacement. If you are not sure if you are listed as a member of a specific ministry, Sue has copies of the September, 2025 Annual Church Conference packet for you to check.

Ministry Leaders, before the end of August, please let Sue or me know of any need to add or replace someone within your ministry area.

Thank you for your help!

Pat Harger, Lay Leader

Dear Mesquite UMC Family,
Grace and peace to you!



On behalf of Patagonia Community UMC, thank you for your generous support of our local Church Thrift Shop and Vacation Bible School. Whether through thrift shop donations, financial gifts, snacks sent directly to us, or your prayers and encouragement, every act of generosity made a difference.

A special thank you to Faith Davis for sharing our VBS and Thrift Shop ministry with your congregation and helping make this partnership possible. We are so grateful for her heart and for each of you who chose to invest in our children, volunteers, church, and community.

Attached is a short slideshow from our VBS week as a small glimpse of the joy your generosity helped create. Please share it with the congregation during worship and/or with the Sunday church email blast. Thank you for partnering with us to share the love of Christ with the next generation.

May God richly bless your congregation as you have so richly blessed ours.

With gratitude in Christ,

Pastor Katrina Pahulu, Patagonia Community UMC

Church E-mail: patagoniaumc@gmail.com

Church Phone: 520-394-2274/Parsonage:520-394-2730

Church Website: patagoniaumc.org

We need you to help make our altar look cheery and bright...

offer to purchase flowers for a special event in your life like an anniversary, birth of a new grandchild, a birthday, or a memorial!

Sign up for a floral arrangement at the Information Station today. The suggested donation is \$40.00.

Just drop a check in the offering plate and designate "flowers" on the memo line.



Thanks to Marta Brookhart for her lovely creations!

Don't forget to return the floral base or vase, so it can be reused.

Coffee & Conversation
with Pastor Malakai.

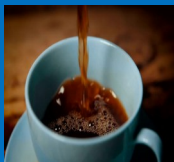
We meet every Wednesday @
9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Discussion led by Larry Lyman.
Everyone is welcome to discuss
the Sunday lectionary.

No experience is needed.

You don't have to be
here every week.

Come and let God
pour His spirit on
you!



United Women in Faith

Monday, August 24

Help us plan for the upcoming
year and our events, especially
our fundraisers!



9:30 AM

We need you!

We are woman empowering
woman to be their best, do their
best, and expect the best!

Prayer Shawl

Thursday

August 27

9:30 AM



Nancy Mae Rowe's

496 Chalet Drive

We have made 2 prayer
shawls, 391 hats, 11 scarves,
& 13 headbands

Join us and relax!

Spotlight on the Skills Needed to Succeed in Life!



It is that time of year when your grandkids have graduated from college, and they expect to be offered the best job on the market after their second interview. So as a grandparent you feel compelled to offer your wise advice. A fancy degree is great, but life skills are what propel you to the top in any field:

No.1: Hustle

No.2: Empathy

No.3: Kindness

No.4: Emotional intelligence

No.5: Perseverance

No.6: Common sense

No.7: A strong work ethic

No.8: Critical thinking

No.9: The ability to change and adjust

No.10: An openness to different views

No.11: Integrity

No.12: The ability to listen

No.13: The ability to communicate

No.14: Inquisitiveness

No.15: Curiosity

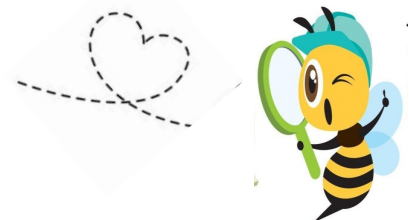
No.16: Professionalism

No.17: Flexibility in their beliefs

No.18: The ability to tell their story

No.19: Enough introspection to build their brand

No.20: The willingness to move to where more opportunities are located for them



(Continued on the next page)

This is the wake-up call if you want to be as successful as your grandparents. Nothing is handed to you on a silver platter! Anything worth having requires hard work, effort, and persistence! Tell your grandkids the truth about a job; they may have to really work!



[List reprinted from Ruben Navarrette's commentary in the Review Journal.]

We will restart Sunday morning Bible study on August 2. Our study for August will be the study of Jesus' sermons and teaching. Beginning with the first part of Jesus' master plan to reach the world. Jesus' mission was to reveal Himself as God's Son come to redeem God's people.

By changing the water to wine at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus demonstrates the transformation of ordinary life into something special and the blessing of a new covenant. This miracle also points to the messianic role of Jesus as the Bridegroom, described in Revelation 19:7-8. This scripture identifies the marriage of God and His church represents the ultimate, eternal union between Jesus Christ (the Bridegroom) and the community of believers (the Bride of Christ).

The Gospel of John does not detail what happened to the wine afterward, but the miracle marked the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. After this Jesus and His disciples traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover, where He cleansed the Temple. In the night Nicodemus came to Jesus. He acknowledged Jesus' miracles as signs of a divine sending and sought understanding of His teaching.

Jesus' teaching to Nicodemus focused on the necessity of spiritual rebirth (born again) for entry into God's Kingdom. Jesus uses the metaphor of the wind to describe the Spirit's work.

Join us Sunday, August 2, at 8:30 AM, in the classroom where we will explore the Spirit's work, unseen (like the wind) yet producing visible effects (John 3:8).

August 2 Jesus Conversation with Nicodemus

August 9 Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

August 16 Sermon at Bethesda

August 23 Sermon at Nazareth

August 30 Sermon on the Mount

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

By Virgil Mink

Please help...

we are looking for folders for the Sunday bulletins for the following months: September, October, and then November between 9:30-11:00 AM on Friday morning. It takes just a small amount of time, and you can bring along a friend



or two to be much more fun for you!

Homebound Communion



The first Sunday of the month is the time for our regularly scheduled communion; however, if you can not make it here then, please call the church office (702-346-4663), and we will make arrangements for communion to be brought to you!

COMMIT TO
PRAY:



AUGUST 2026

HAVEN UMC
JEROME, AZ

HOLBROOK UMC
HOLBROOK, AZ

Game Night

Friday, August 28

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Bring a dish and a game to share! Come and meet some new friends and enjoy!

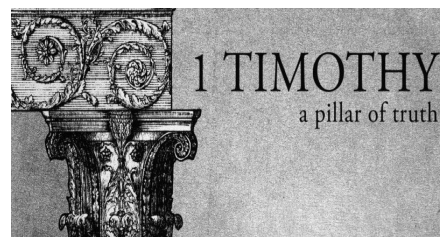




By Virgil Mink

We have initiated a safety and security team within the Mesquite United Methodist Church. In 1 Peter 5:8, the apostle Peter warns, "Be sober-minded and alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." This call to vigilance is a reminder of the dangers that believers face and the need for constant awareness and readiness. Ensuring the safety of congregants within churches has become an issue.

Many of us think of our religions as "peace-loving" and that our places of worship are safe from any conflict or violence. Unfortunately, violence occurs in churches of all sizes. All of us who worship Sundays here at MUMC or attend mid-week group meetings or special events need to be aware of potential threats to our safety. In 1 Timothy 3:15, Paul describes the church as the pillar and ground of the truth. This metaphor highlights the church's role as a stable and essential institution within Christian life. Securing such an entity is not merely about physical safety but also about preserving its integrity and sanctity.



A common question may be: Will security distract people when they come to worship? I don't believe so. People are accustomed to seeing security at concerts, basketball games, movies, and other public events. The goal of our Safety & Security Team is to help create a safe environment while maintaining the balance between security and ministry.



Persistent care and vigilance are themes deeply rooted in the biblical narrative. In Luke 12:35-40, Jesus advises His followers to "be dressed for service and keep your lamps burning." This teaching cautions believers to remain steadfast and watchful in their spiritual journey and to be prepared for the violence of this world. While the Bible doesn't mention modern security measures like cameras, individuals at the door and in the parking lot, it offers timeless wisdom on protecting the spiritual and communal aspects of a congregation.



The Mesquite Police Department SWAT team conducted a training exercise at our church on Wednesday, July 15. After their training, Sergeant Stout and his team reviewed our security measures and physical structure. He made a couple of suggestions and complimented our measures thus far to improve the safety and security of everyone attending or using our church building—specifically, securing all doors, using lanyards to identify members of the team, and the overall security system.

Training our church Safety & Security Team members and assuring that our congregation understands emergency procedures including first aid, fire safety, and evacuation plans, supports the Biblical mandate for responsible stewardship and oversight and reinforces the church's commitment to everyone's well-being.

There are several different roles for individuals serving on the Safety & Security Team that best fit their experience and available time. If you would also like to participate, please contact me. We could always use you! —Virgil Mink

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

God is using Operation Christmas Child Shoebox gifts to transform the lives of children around the world! Each box packed full of fun, quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items provides our local church partners in over 100 countries and territories an opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with boys and girls who receive the gifts. As a result, lives are changed, children are disciplined, and whole communities are transformed.

How will you choose to pack a shoebox this year?

- ♦ Pack as a individual
- ♦ Pack as a family
- ♦ Pack a shoebox on line
- ♦ Pack at our annual packing party
- ♦ Help us pack by donating money or items to be used in packing



THINK...Fun, Full, and Personal when packing a shoebox. I was told that sunglasses, hats, hair accessories, jewelry, anything that can be put on right out of the box to say, "Look what I got!" This is so exciting for these children when they receive a shoebox at a distribution party!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me,
Blessings,
Cindy Christensen
435-720-7649 or cindylou0420@yahoo.com



BRIDGE

**-ONE OF OUR
CIRCLE GROUPS
THURSDAYS
@ 10:00 AM**



**CONTACT MARTA OR LARRY
BROOKHART TO PLAY**

Quilters—



**one of our
circle groups
Meets on both
Wednesdays & Fridays
@ 10:15 AM
Talk to Sue about
joining!**

Men's Group

Coffee @ 7:30 AM

Breakfast

Meeting

@ 8:00 AM



Saturday, August 8th

**Order a name tag for \$11
cash, so everyone can
address you
correctly... pick up an order
form at the
Information Station today!**

**Remember to include cash,
please!**

*The Congregational Care Ministry at Mesquite UMC seeks to provide
Christian Care to our Mesquite UMC friends and members.
Our pastors, congregational care staff and volunteers connect
with others to help them through various life situations.*

**We are here if you need
help...**

Congregational

care

**however,
NO summer
meetings!**



**Contact Sue Taylor at 307-690-0601
if you are interested in being a part of this
new Ministry Circle.**

August Birthdays &

2	Blanche Gleason, Valentine Kioa
12	Betty Gregg
13	Kathleen Winstanley
14	Jim Dartt, Jerry Selbo
16	Debbie Fjeld, John Liti
17	Robert Gallegos
19	Marta Brookhart
22	Karen Ransdell
24	Michael Earl, Madison Liti
25	Jean Burdett
28	Glenda McMaster



August Anniversaries



4	Jim & Anne Rice
13	Gregg & Margie Shaver
14	Wally & Diane McClure
16	Glen & Lois Savage
17	Stan & Pat Harger
20	Jerry & Cindie Selbo
22	Larry & Cheryl Brown

Outdoor Market/Bake Sale

Saturday, Oct. 24

8 a.m.—1 p.m.

"CRAFTERS WANTED"



Limited tables available!

\$25 per table

Presented by Mesquite United Methodist Church

Mesquite United Women in Faith

420 West Pioneer Blvd.

For more info. contact: Sue @

702-346-4663

mumcmesquite@gmail.com



Pill Bottle Ministry:

Bottles need to be clean,
free of residue, and
with their caps! I just
mailed 168 bottles!



Thanks, Cindie Selbo

SMITH'S INSPIRING



DONATIONS

APRIL 1-JUNE 30

42 HOUSEHOLDS=\$124.72

Five

Methods of Giving to the Church

- ♦ *Join us for services at the church (Sunday Worship at 10:00 AM).*
- ♦ *Use Bill Pay from your own bank to send it to the church.*
- ♦ *Use your own credit card or PayPal on our website.*
- ♦ *Mail your envelope to the church:*

*420 W. Pioneer Blvd.,
Mesquite, NV 89027
or drop it off in our
church mailbox.*

- ♦ *Drop off your envelope
TUES. - FRJ. from 8:00
AM-NOON while Sue
Compton, the church
secretary, is in the office.*



Secretary Snippets:

By Sue Compton

1. Thank you to everyone who responded to the plea that Faith Davis made to help Pastor Katrína Páhalu at the Methodist Church in Patagonia with their Bible School Program and sales at their local thrift store. She was overwhelmed with your generous response and care. Let's hope that God blessed each child who attended this summer.
2. Thank you to those who helped with the 4th of July celebration. A special shout-out of thanks to Virgil Mink and Reg Montgomery for grilling 80 hamburgers for that event. Perhaps we can convince them to grill for Labor Day! Also thanks to the folks who helped set up and clean up for the potluck. Without you we would be lost! You are such special people to always give of your time and energy!
3. Thank you to Kathleen Winstanley for continuing into the summer months with the Bible study for the United Women in Faith. We truly enjoyed 1Thessalonians. Thanks, Paul, for your many writings
4. If you are want to be a WORSHIP LEADER, please let me know of your interest. I can always use a new name and a new face in the line up for Sundays! Just call the church office (702-346-4663) or e-mail (mumcmesquite@gmail.com).
5. Save these dates, please:

October 10—Canyon District United Women in Faith Meeting at our church

October 18—Welcome Home, Snowbirds/Laity Sunday

October 24—Outdoor Market and Bake Sale

November 18—Packing Party for Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

November 22—Blessing Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes

November 26—Thanksgiving!