



THE CROSS AND THE FLAME



Mesquite United Methodist Church: July 2026

Volume 35 No. 7

Dear Church Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate Independence Day this month, we give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy as a nation and for the greater freedom we have in Jesus Christ. Through His grace, we are forgiven, loved, and called to follow Him.

As someone who came to the United States from Tonga in 1986, I am especially grateful for the opportunities this country has provided for my family and me. What I love about America is the freedom to worship God openly, serve others through the church, and live alongside people from many different backgrounds and cultures. America is a nation built on hope, opportunity, and the belief that people can work together for the common good. As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, I thank God for the blessings of liberty, the freedom to share our faith, and the privilege of serving both God and community in this wonderful country.

One summer afternoon, a young boy was flying a kite high above the clouds. A man asked, "How do you know the kite is still there if you can't see it?" The boy smiled and said, "Because I can still feel the tug on the string." Our faith is often like that. There are times when we cannot clearly see what God is doing, yet we can trust that He is still guiding us, strengthening us, and walking beside us. Even when the path ahead seems uncertain, God remains faithful and leads us forward one step at a time.



Worship Theme for July is ***Growing in Faith and Trusting God's Guidance.***

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."— **Proverbs 3:5–6**

Just as the boy trusted the tug on the string, we can trust God's hand leading us each day, even when we cannot see the whole journey before us. As we worship together this month, we will be reminded that God is faithful and that His guidance is always available to those who seek Him.

July 5 – First Sunday (Communion)

Resting in God's Guidance -Genesis 24:34–38, 42–49, 58–67, Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 12 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing the Soil of Our Hearts - Romans 8:1–11; Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 19 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Living Between Promise and Harvest - Genesis 28:10-19a, Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

July 26 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Nothing Can Separate Us - Romans 8:26–39; Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

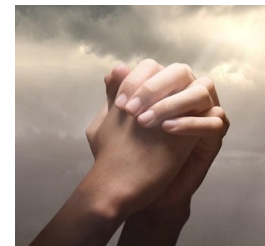
Church Family Highlights:

- Communion Sunday – July 5
- Independence Day – July 4
- Sunday Worship and Fellowship Gatherings
- Ongoing Prayer Ministry
- Outreach and Caring Ministries



Please Keep in Prayer:

- Those listed in our bulletin
- Those who are sick or recovering
- Families facing challenges
- Our church leaders and ministry teams
- Travelers during the summer season



As I return from Annual Conference, I am grateful for the opportunity to worship, learn, and serve alongside United Methodists from across our conference. It is always encouraging to hear how God is working through churches and communities in many different places. The conference reminded us that we are part of a larger connection of faith, united in our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I would also like to thank Robert Gallegos for attending the 2026 Annual Conference on-line and for sharing his report with our congregation. His participation helps keep our church connected to the important work and ministry taking place throughout the Desert Southwest Conference.

As we move through July, may we continue to trust God's guidance, grow in faith, and encourage one another in Christ. Thank you for your prayers, faithfulness, and commitment to the ministry of Mesquite United Methodist Church. Together, let us continue sharing Christ's love with our community and living as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

With Grace and Peace,
Pastor Malakai Pahulu



Prayer Meeting
with Larry Lycan



Wednesday, July 15
3:00 PM

Monday
July 13
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.!



Monday, July 20
9:30 AM

*Finance
Meeting*



*Thursday, July 23
2:30 PM*

Security & Safety Meeting

Monday

July 6

4:00 PM



SPRC Meeting

Thursday, July 30

1:00 PM



2026 Annual Conference

By Robert Gallegos, Lay delegate for MUMC



Held at Lake View UMC in Sun City, AZ, on June 18-21, 2026

A HEALTHY CHURCH FOR A HEALTHY WORLD / WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER

Acts 2:42-47 was read in Tongan by Timote Piukala; This message was from Peter to about 3000 people who became new believers when Peter preached the good news about Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-16 was read in Spanish by Javier Olivares; Speaking of the gifts brought to the church to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

Bishop Carlos Rapanut, “Life is a journey, a journey together. Come walk with me and make this a healthy Church for a Healthy World.” ACTS represents a world just like today. The church or Iglesia, are the called-out ones, a people called out together.

We are called out to be just like those in Bible times, to practice shared life for a community builds a healthy church. A healthy church shows up in the neighborhoods and is not confined to their sanctuaries. A healthy church cultivates joy. A healthy church shows by example that there is another way to live, so may the spirit of God make us such a church.

The afternoon plenary began with a “Land Acknowledgement” by Joanne Miles-Long giving recognition to the Native Culture in Arizona. This was followed by the Conference Monitors. These individuals keep the conference on track and make sure that it is following the Book of Discipline.

A Presentation on the Conference Budget was given by Rev. David Rennick and Matt Kuss. The completed budget is presented on the Conference Web site under the Finance Folder. After reading the budget it will be voted on during the second day of the conference.

DAY 2: (Friday)

We are the church. We each have a gift though some of us don’t know it! When we offer our gift, the church becomes a refuge of hope and shared strength. Christ has already put in you that which the body of Christ needs.

Mission Project Update

Rae Lathrup - Leviticus 19:34

We are called to support the immigrant, welcome the stranger, we are called to build community. So far \$13,000 has been raised.

Faithful Completions; we celebrate the closing of the Bisbee UMC.

Churches will be birthed, they grow and mature, they will live their lives, and they will decline and die. That’s our resurrection story.

The Cabinet recommends the SW Conference change the district names from 4 districts to 3 districts.

- ⇒ The North District of Nevada and northern Arizona will be renamed **CANYON DISTRICT**
- ⇒ The greater Phoenix area will be renamed **VALLEY DISTRICT**
- ⇒ The Southern portion of Arizona will be renamed **SONORAN DISTRICT**.

Nominations and Leadership Report – Jamie Booth

Nominations for various lay leaderships and committees are documented on the DSCUMC.ORG web site.

Recognition for the 70th Anniversary of Women's Ordination. Recognition number 4 from Benefits & Health Board – Christopher Wertz

Rising health care costs and ongoing conversations requires a vote to accept the health plan. Discussions about the cost were concerning and debated at length For and Against the ballot proposal. Voting was cast 234– yes, 38- no.

One Matters Award – Rachel Gillmore and Paul Nixon

For Churches making disciples was awarded to Calvary Methodist Church in Phoenix.

Afternoon Plenary

Presentation of Licenses:

This segment announced Newly Licensed, Ordained Elders, Retirees and the passing of the mantle of ministry.

Election of General and Jurisdictional Conference

This procedure requires 4 Cleric delegates, 4 Lay delegates with 5 reserve Cleric and 5 Lay reserve delegates. This segment was very lengthy due to voting procedures and extended to day 3 of the conference.

DAY 3 (Saturday)

New and Vital Faith Report

This segment recognized many UMC churches enjoying spiritual growth. The overall goal at New and Vital Faith is to start 40 new spiritual growth objectives by our birthday in 2034.

Keynote speaker for today was Rene Tyler Sit “Jesus on the Move”

Start with gratitude of how God is moving in the world. The church needs to be a house of love training. Jesus is the center of Christian spirituality.

New Grants

Financial grants will amount to \$700,000 - \$800,000 for new ways to reach new people. Applications for grants will be required.

DAY 4 (Sunday AM)

Missions Report

The Solidarity fund has collected \$31,124 to date.

Celebration of Ordained Deacons – Tina Reese

Celebration of 70 years of the ordination of women -Sylvia Harris

Video report from Clairmont School of Theology

Fixing of appointments – This presentation is for all the Churches in our Conference, Three Districts of each Pastors and Directors.

The next conference will be June 10-12, 2027, at the Paradise Valley UMC in the Valley District.

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.

United Women in Faith

There will be NO meeting in July as we are taking the summer off from meetings, but we will be filling in for the fellowship committee during the months of July and August! Help us by bringing treats, coffee, and juice, and volunteering to serve! We could use your help for our sewing circle, too.



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!

THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WILL CONTINUE WITH A BIBLE STUDY:



TUESDAY, 12:30 PM
THESSALONIANS:

LIVING TO PLEASE GOD

BY MARK WALLACE

AMAZON.COM

Spotlight on the Council: What Does America Mean to You?



I love America for its freedom, diversity, abundant resources, rich history, and the enduring spirit of its people. Having served in the US Air Force for over 20 years, I appreciate the American military commitment. I have also retired from the US Forest Service where I was charged with protecting the Natural Beauty and Resources of America's forest and wildlands. America's landscapes are breathtaking, from mountains and forests to rivers and coastlines. The country's abundant natural resources, such as timber, coal, and fertile land, have historically supported infrastructure, energy, and economic growth.

The United States is home to people from all walks of life, offering a vibrant mix of cultures, languages, and traditions. America is celebrated for its commitment to freedom of speech, religion, and expression, without fear of censorship or persecution. This diversity enriches communities, fosters creativity, and allows for a wide range of cultural experiences. I love the freedom of religion, where I can stand shoulder to shoulder with people of diverse religious beliefs, and I can be proud of my religious beliefs and share my commitment to liberty, justice, opportunity and the message of God.

May God Continue to
Bless America,
Virgil Mink



The 4th of July means summer and time spent with family and friends. It always means celebrating this day with BBQ and delicious summer food. It means memories of watching spectacular fireworks. I am so thankful for our country and the freedom that we enjoy!

Margie Shaver
Finance Secretary



There is no country on earth that I love more than the United States of America. Our country originated from the dreams and aspirations of our forefathers 250 years ago. The Revolutionary War, the Civil War and subsequent wars have all taught us that Freedom is not Free. We live in a Nation guided by a Constitution and Bill of Rights that was carefully planned and dedicated to the people and all future generations.

Gaylon Bratland
Men's Group President

I love the freedom of religion and speech; the diversity of our culture and food; the beauty of our natural landscapes and national parks; the broad scope of our entertainment and sports options; the gratitude shown for the sacrifices of our service members and veterans; and the national pride, patriotism and camaraderie of the people.

Larry Brookhart
Men's Group Vice President/Secretary

I love the fact that I was Born, Raised, and Worked in a country that is FREE and Full of Prosperity. I am Free to Live where I want and Do what I want. I am Free to Marry the girl that I Wanted. I am Free to Attend the Church that I want. And Most of all, I am Free to worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reg Montgomery
Vice-President of the Trustees



The 4th of July is a day to remember our freedom and to remember that we can go to a church of our choice. It is a time for family gatherings, BBQ, and fireworks.

Ken Augustine
President of the Trustees



My mother was first generation American (even born on Flag Day!) Her parents and grandparents immigrated from Italy in the early 1900's. Her father became a naturalized citizen and fought in WWI.

They received a 40-acre homestead parcel in NE Wyoming where they built a small house and farmed. No running water, no electricity – and an outhouse fifty yards down the hill – 11 children – 3 bedrooms. My grandmother lived there until I was ten.

They considered themselves American – they learned the language – they followed the laws – and never once regretted their choices.

I am proud of my heritage and knowing that my grandfather played a part in my freedom.

LuAnne Bender
SPRC Chairperson



I appreciate that the government has set aside parcels of land for national parks, state parks, and city parks. These are some of the most gorgeous locations across this land that house public domains! The little city where I grew up had Silver Park. It had trails to hike, ballfields, tennis courts, a pond with ducks, log cabins, playgrounds with swings, slides, monkey bars, a merry-go-round, and sand lots for horse-shoes and digging. There were plenty of picnic tables for family and friends to gather and eat together. That park also provided day camp, many holiday gatherings, fireworks displays, organized baseball games, local festivals, places for church picnics and Sunday School class parties. I spent many a good times at Silver Park and have tons of happy memories with family, neighbors, and friends. God bless Teddy Roosevelt and his foresight to establish the National Park Service. Thank you, America, for your wonderful park system and the freedom we have to enjoy it!

Sue Compton
President of United
Women in Faith



What I love about America is its diversity of people and landscapes. I have lived in many locations in the U.S. and found good people and interesting scenery and history to explore everywhere. MUMC's congregation is comprised of folks from a wide range of home states and experience backgrounds, but united in our love of Christ and our country.

Pat Harger
Lay Leader, Finance Chairperson

I feel fortunate to live in the USA where I can worship in the church of my choice.

Nancy Gentry
Worship Committee Leader

Please help...

we are looking for folders for the Sunday bulletins for the months of July, August, and September 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!



Commit to pray:

JULY 2026

**Community UMC
Caliente, NV**

**Community UMC
Williams, AZ**

**Desert Springs
Las Vegas, NV**

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!

*Game Night
Friday, July 31
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Bring a dish and a
game to share! Come
and beat the heat with
fun and fellowship!*



HYGIENE BAGS

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026, AT 9:00 AM,

SO COME AND HELP US PACK THESE BAGS!

WE NEED ITEMS LIKE DENTAL FLOSS, CLIPPERS, TOOTHPASTE, TOOTHBRUSHES, SMALL SOAPS, RAZORS, DEODORANTS, TWEEZERS, SOCKS, BAND-AIDS, COMBS, SHAMPOO, CONDITIONER, CHAP-STICK, BRUSHES, MOUTHWASH, FEMININE HYGIENE ITEMS, COSMETICS, WASH-CLOTHS, ETC.. ANY ITEMS THAT YOU THINK WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU WERE IN NEED, ON THE RUN, HOMELESS...



Have You Taken Control of Your Health Today?

Life Line Screening will be here at Mesquite United Methodist Church on **Tuesday, July 7, 2026** offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today. Please refer to this e-flyer to get more info about how you can sign up.

There is no time like the present to take action!

They will be back again in **October** if you miss this opportunity!

Comprehensive Screening Packages:

- ⇒ Carotid Artery
- ⇒ Peripheral Arterial Disease
- ⇒ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
- ⇒ Atrial Fibrillation

Men's & Women's Health Essentials:

- Testosterone/Prostate Cancer
- Thyroid/Osteoporosis
- Add a Loved One for only \$167

Three ways to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-800-324- 9458
promo code HABC001
- Online: LLSA.SOCIAL/HAB
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



Your risk of stroke and cardiovascular disease increases as you age, but the good news is an estimated 80% of this risk can be prevented with annual health screenings! Call now to schedule your appointment here in Mesquite!

July Birthdays &

5	Eve Mayberry
12	Larry Brown, Zola Rohloff
15	Debra Harnly, Zach Knight
17	Wally McClure
19	Jolene Fetta, Dee Zuehlsdorff
26	Curtis Dassonville
28	May Woolsey
30	Stan Harger
31	Kenna Anavisca



July Anniversaries



3	George & Cathy Petrus
5	Ray & Doris Points
9	Reggie & Patty Montgomery
14	Dave & Sue Compton, Greg & Carolyn Green
23	David & Sherry Hartline

Men's Group



**Coffee- 7:30 AM
Breakfast Meeting-
8:00 AM
Saturday, July 11**

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.

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.*



Prayer Shawl Ministry



**Thursday
July 23
9:30 AM
@Nancy Mae Rowe's
home:
496 Chalet Drive
Come and get your
yarn on!**

We were blessed with a new member this month. What a joy she is! We have made 2 prayer shawls, 381 hats, 11 scarves, and 13 head bands so far this year. Come and join us for a morning of relaxation and sharing.



Patagonia Community

United Methodist Church Vacation Bible school

JULY 20-24

**MAKE CHECKS
PAYABLE TO**

Patagonia Community
United Methodist Church

HOW WE CAN HELP

- Donating Supplies to Help with Vacation Bible School
- Donating Items to help the Thrift Store
- Donating Funds to Help with the Purchase of Supplies

WHERE CAN YOU LEAVE DONATIONS

- Donations Can Be Left at Faith Davis' House
- Her Address is Listed in the Church Directory
- Monetary Donations Can Be Left at the Church
- Last Day for Donations is Friday, July 17th



A Fun & Faith-Filled Experience for Children

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL by Virgil Mink



The Sunday morning Bible study has been taking a summer break for June and July. We plan to start again in August.

I have been working on a study of the sermons and lessons of Jesus. Beginning with Jesus return to Jerusalem from Cana where He turned water into wine. Here Jesus meets (at night) with Nicodemus. From there Jesus travels back to Nazareth through Samaria, where He meets the woman at the well.

Jesus goes to Nazareth, where He was raised as Joseph, the carpenter's son, and it is here where He first teaches from Isaiah about the coming Messiah, and proclaimed His mission, declaring that He was anointed to bring good news, which marked the beginning of His public ministry.

The next message from Jesus is the Sermon on the Mount, and then the instruction to the Apostles. From here we will study several other lessons of Christ until we get to the Last Supper. Seems like a lot to do? I appreciate the encouragement from Pastor Malakia, and those who attend this class. Remember, **8:30** Sunday mornings, starting **August 2**.

Secretary Snippets:

By Sue Compton

1. Thank you to Margie Shaver for working for me , so I could go home to Alliance, Ohio, to see my family. Dave and I are both from a small town in northeastern Ohio. Our little town is the “home of the red carnation!” Dave had not been back since we moved here in 2014. I had not been home since my niece was married in 2015. We were able to see lots of family, friends, and visit Amish country for a home-cooked meal and a quick visit to an antique store. We also were able to see my great nephew play Little League Baseball. We saw two great nephews who had not been born before we moved out here. Margie did a great job!
2. Thank you to Kathleen Winstanley for doing a wonderful job with the summer United Women in Faith Bible study. We spent the month of June studying the book of James. She has volunteered to continue our study into July and August with 1 Thessalonians: Living to Please God. So save your Tuesday afternoons at 12:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall to continue to gather and study God’s word.
3. Thank you to Faith Davis for creating a new cover for our attendance pads. They are sharp and modern to view. Please don’t forget to sign these attendance pads every Sunday. We must report to the district weekly how many folks are here. That is how the district determines our apportionments yearly. We also keep records for the purpose of ordering supplies like bulletins and also determining financial needs within the church. So please sign in and pass the books along to your neighbor in the pew. Say “Hello” and get to know your church family!
4. “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life with the glory that will be revealed in us.” —James 1:2-4, 12

Happy Birthday, America!