

The Vision

Volume 17, Issue 4

“For the VISION is for the days yet to come.” *Daniel 10:14*

April 2024

Embracing Renewal: A Pastor's Journey Towards Rest and Revival

By Rev. Ann Lyter

As we approach the cusp of spring, a season of renewal and rebirth, I come to you with both excitement and anticipation for a journey that lies ahead. After much prayerful consideration and in accordance with the provisions laid out in the Book of Discipline, I am preparing to embark on a 12-week renewal leave, commencing after our worship and Earth Day celebration on April 14, 2024.

Renewal leave, as prescribed by our Methodist tradition, is not merely a vacation or a sabbatical; rather, it is a sacred time set aside for rest, refreshment, renewal, and if necessary, recovery. It is a time when pastors, like myself, step away from the demands of ministry to replenish their spiritual wells, rekindle the passion for service, and tend to their own well-being. This intentional period of rest is crucial for sustaining the vitality and effectiveness in ministry in the long run.

In recent times, the challenges of our world, compounded by the pressures of the COVID-19 pandemic, have weighed heavily upon many of us in the clergy. The stressors and demands of pastoral life can sometimes lead to burnout, and it is incumbent upon us to recognize when we are in need of renewal and restoration. It is for these reasons that the Book of Discipline provides for renewal leave.

During my absence, I am grateful for the support and understanding of our Staff Parish Relations Committee, as well as the leadership of Pastor

Chan, who will continue to provide pastoral care and guidance to those in need. Our worship services will carry on seamlessly, enriched by the diverse perspectives of lay speakers and visiting pastors. The governing board will diligently oversee the administrative affairs of our church, ensuring that our ministries continue to flourish in my absence.

Furthermore, I am heartened by the unwavering support of our Methodist connection, including our District Superintendent and our Bishop, who will provide guidance and leadership during this time. I am indebted to the Board of Ordained Ministry, which is helping cover the costs of my leave. I am also humbled to represent Velda Rose UMC as its senior pastor at the upcoming Annual Conference in Tucson, AZ, June 13-16, where we will gather as a community of faith to discern God's will for our shared ministry.

As I embark on this journey of renewal, I ask for your support so I may carry the hopes and prayers of our congregation, trusting that this time apart will not only rejuvenate my spirit but also provide an opportunity for our church community to discern new paths of ministry and purpose. I look forward to returning to worship on July 21st, eager to witness the ways in which God has been at work in our midst during my absence.

I trust that this season of renewal will be a time of deepening faith, discernment, and transformation for me. I pray that these next three months will also be a rich time of growth and faith for each one of you, as we all continue to follow in the footsteps of our beloved Jesus.

I'D LIKE TO SHARE A STORY about Philip Yancey, who is one of the existing Christian writers. Once, he visited his mother and had a conversation. Reminiscing about the past, he took out a photo album from the closet. As he looked at the photos, he began to trace his growth from childhood through adolescence. There were pictures of him dressed as a cowboy and an Indian when he was young, a photo of him in a rabbit costume in the first grade, pictures of a pet he had as a child, piano recital photos, and graduation pictures from middle school, high school, and college.

While looking through them, he came across a baby photo with 'Philip

Yancey' written on the back. It was a photo of Philip Yancey as a newborn. Oddly, the photo seemed to have been severely crumpled as if a dog or cat had played with it and then had been flattened out again. He asked his mother why she kept this particular photo, despite having many others that were not crumpled.

Philip Yancey was 10 months old when his father contracted polio, and three months later, his father passed away, the day after Philip Yancey's first birthday. His father was 24 years old and had become completely paralyzed, requiring a large cylinder of oxygen to survive. It was around the 1950s, a time when polio was considered an incurable serious disease.

Hardly anyone visited, and only his mother visited his father every day without fail. She sat only in designated spots so that his father, inside the cylinder, could see her through a mirror installed inside. She explained that she kept this photo to remember those times. The photo had been attached to the cylinder during

his father's illness. His father had asked for photos of his mother and two sons, and the three photos had to be crumpled to fit inside the cylinder. That's why the baby photo was crumpled.

Philip Yancey has almost no memory of his father, as children were not allowed in the polio ward and he was too young to remember

anything about his father. When his mother told him the story while looking at the crumpled photo, he felt a strange and strong sensation. Philip Yancey writes about his feelings associated with the photo:

"For the last three months of his life, every time my father

opened his eyes, he saw the images of his three family members. But other than looking at the photos, he could do nothing else. What could he have done all day? Did he pray for us?

Certainly. Did he love us? Yes. But how could a person completely paralyzed express his love, especially when his children could not enter the room? Sometimes I think about this crumpled photo because it connects me to a stranger, my father, who died at an age 10 years younger than I am now, someone I don't remember and don't know, yet who thought of me every day and loved me as much as he could. I believe he is doing the same from another dimension now. And I believe that there will be ample time to start anew the relationship with my father that ended tragically... When my mother showed me that crumpled photo... I realized that someone was there. Someone had been watching over my life unfolding in this world. And the person who loved me was alive right there. It was an amazing feeling of hope because it meant my life was worth hanging on to." (Philip Yancey, *Reaching for the Invisible God.*)



United Women in Faith



United Women in Faith

WE HAVE HAD A GOOD SEASON of sharing our faith. Our final meeting is a lunch out on April 4. If you are interested in

joining us call me or the church office.

The United Women in Faith web page offers several opportunities for spiritual growth and educational opportunities.

unitedwomeninfaith.org

The Reading Program offers several books. Many of them are available in our church library. We encourage our members to participate in our reading program.

Opportunities of service are available at our Mission Rummage Building during the summer.

Our thanks to all of our church for all of your support and participation.

Blessings to each of you.

Pat Nixon,
President

* * *

NAOMI CIRCLE

When: Thursday, April 4

Lunch out at 11:30 a.m.

**Where: Cracker and Company Café
1325 N. Greenfield, Mesa**

Members will be called for reservations.

* * *

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH READING PROGRAM

The Reading Program for 2024 has been published in the Response Magazine (November/December issue on pages 24-40). I recommend you visit the Velda Rose Library and search the West Wall for the 2024 new

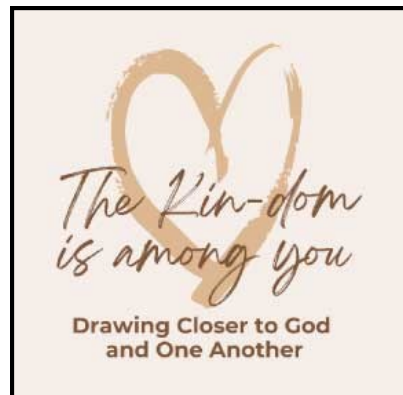
books ordered by Pat Nixon, Program Resources. Those books were donated by the Velda Rose United Women in Faith for the use of the whole congregation.

I personally recommend two children's books that would be great to share with grandchildren and great grandchildren. *I Am Golden* by Eva Chen is the story of a child of Chinese American heritage that learns to love her heritage.

The second book I recommend is *We Are Water Protectors* by Carole Lindstrom. This is the story about how to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption. Inspired by the many Indigenous-led movements across North America, it is a bold and lyrical picture book vibrantly illustrated.

MISSION u 2024

Join us at Mission u as we explore what is



means to draw closer to God and one another. Mark your Calendars and Save the Dates! More details will be provided in the coming months. Jesus told his followers the kin-dom was

among them (Luke 17:21). What does that mean? Who does Jesus say will inherit the kin-dom? How do we transform ourselves and our communities in ways that bring us closer to the kin-dom? Dive into these questions and more at Mission u 2024 as we examine Scripture together and join in worship, fellowship, and action.

In Person Dates: June 21 & 22-Payson UMC at 414 Easy Street, #4414, Payson, AZ 85541
Adult and Youth Studies are available.
(continued on page 4)

April Sunday Services and Wednesday Devotions

APRIL 7

Homecoming Sunday
with Hymn Sing & Potluck
9:30 AM

APRIL 14

Wandering Heart:
“Here’s My Heart”
John 21:1-19

APRIL 21

1863 Control
John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 13:13
Guest Preacher: Virgil Schatz

APRIL 28

The Lord is There
Ezekiel 48:35
Rev. Chan Kim

10:00 AM WEDNESDAY ONLINE DEVOTIONS:

4/3 *Visio Divina*—
Luke 24:1-12

4/10 *Visio Divina*—
John 21:1-19

*We will rerun previous
devotions during this time slot
while Pastor Ann is on leave.*

Wednesday Afternoon Study—on hiatus until late summer

With Pastor Ann on leave, and so many of our winter residents, and even the year-round residents, heading for cooler climates, our Wednesday afternoon study will be on break until late summer/early fall. The next study topic and dates will be announced in late July/August, to start in mid-August at the earliest, or possibly in September.



United Women in Faith, continued

Virtual Dates: July 19th & 20, 2024. Adult Study will be available.*

Scholarships are available to pay your registration, room & board, and transportation costs. Billie Larime, Dean of Mission U, will be present at both classes. Contact Billie Larime for registration and carpooling.

“Out to Lunch Bunch”

When: Friday, April 12, 2024
Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Where: Lin’s Grand Buffet
1215 S. Ellsworth Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85209

ALL WOMEN WELCOME RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Contact Barbara Tucker or the Church office to leave name & phone number.

“Let’s Proclaim that we are a people called to love all; a people called to serve all; and a people called to openly worship our loving God with joy and anticipation.” John 13:35

Billie Larime, Summer President and
Membership Chair
Velda Rose United Methodist Women in Faith

*Register at dscumc.org/blog/2024/03/04/register-for-mission-u-2024/

United Methodist Men



THE UMMM GROUP met on April 1st and will

hold its next monthly meeting on May 6 from 1130-1300, location to be determined.

We are using the proceeds from the recent UWF Rummage Sale food and beverage concession to fund the renovation of the Memorial Patio in front of the sanctuary entrance. This project will take several months to complete, and we will keep you posted on our progress.



This month's produce giveaway will be on 27 April, 9:00-11:00, in Martin Hall. Stop by to volunteer or pick up a bag of fruit and veggies for a neighbor in need.



A Note from JB Brown, Music Arts Director

THANKS TO VELDA ROSE SINGERS for their faithfulness to participate in the choir for this 2023-24 season. The 2024-25 season starts with our first rehearsal on Wednesday,

October 16, 2024 at 6:30pm in the music room. Recent favorite FB post - "If anyone has any experience with anything or knows anything about something, please let me know". JB, Music Arts Director (MAD)

Upcoming Concerts April 30 and May 3



Tuesday, April 30 at 7:30 PM Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix presents "Orpheus Goes Pop" at Velda

Rose United Methodist Church. The first half of the program includes long-time favorite tunes and melodies you have known for years including "Loch Lomond," "Going Home" and one of everyone's favorites, "Mary Had a Little Lamb." The singers will put a smile on your face and get your toes tapping as we present music by The Beatles, The Beach Boys, Carpenters and ABBA, among others in the second half of the program.

Ticket prices for *Orpheus Goes Pop* are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors and students and \$10 for children 5-11. Children under the age of 5 are

admitted free but will need a ticket. Tickets purchased in advance are being sold online only at www.orpheus.org. Tickets purchased at the door receive a \$5 surcharge.



Friday, May 3 at 7:00 PM
When Dreams Take Flight: Reawaken your dreams and let them fly

as we sing A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes, A Million Dreams (from Greatest Showman) , Dream a Little Dream of Me, I Wanna Be Like You, Meet Me Tonight in Dreamland, Over the Rainbow, When You Wish upon a Star, and many more.

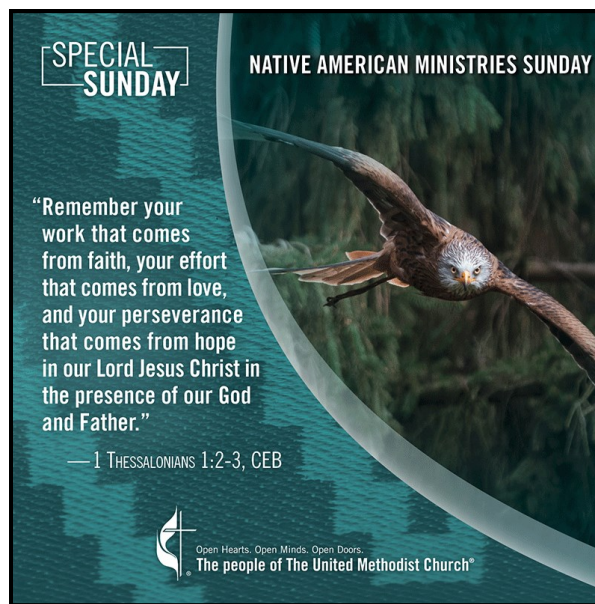
General Admission is \$7, Senior Admission is \$5 and Family Tickets are \$25. Purchase tickets at https://resonanceve.com/tickets.asp?evt_id=759.

Celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday April 14

ILIFF SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY student Deza Alessandro is able to continue to work toward their calling because of the support of the Native American Ministries Sunday scholarship. "Iliff has an ecojustice/ecospirituality ethos that helps inspire me towards how I can tap into traditional Christian beliefs and traditional Indigenous lifeways to help support these youth in making new meaning and building their own relationship with Creator, the land, and their human communities," says Dez. Your gifts to Native American Ministries Sunday support students, like Dez, who are committed to the future of the United Methodist Church.

As we gather to commemorate Native American Ministries Sunday and our Earth Day Celebration on April 14, plan now to attend the celebration and

participate in the offering that empowers Native American ministries.



You can give to the Native American Ministries Sunday offering in the following ways:

- Give a cash or check offering for the NAMS offering to our local church using the designated envelope and place it in the offering plate (please designate "NAMS" in the check memo line).
- Give online or set up monthly giving at UMC.org/SSGive.

We look forward to this great celebration as we recognize the contributions of Native American people.

Thank you for your generosity.

Coming soon to a church patio near you...



**Our Annual
EARTH DAY
CELEBRATION
April 14th, 2024**
after the Sunday service



**Refreshments, displays, lots of information on
how you can help save**

GOD'S BEAUTIFUL EARTH

JOIN US



**TREES, TREES,
BEAUTIFUL TREES...**

How about some tree facts to
celebrate Arbor Day on
APRIL 26TH.

1. Trees help clean our air.
2. Trees contribute to our Health.
3. Trees remove pollution from the atmosphere, improves air quality and human health.
4. A study of 10 cities found community forests save an average of **one** life each year. In NYC alone trees save an average of **6** lives each year.
5. Trees provide us with oxygen.
6. Large trees can provide a day's supply of



- oxygen for up to 4 people.
7. Trees help clean our drinking water. Forested watersheds provide quality drinking water to more than 180 million Americans.
8. Trees provide much needed cooling. Trees lower surface and air temperatures by providing Shade. Shaded surfaces may be 20-45 degrees cooler than the peak temperature of unshaded materials. Evaporation of water trees have a cooling influence.
9. Trees help us save energy. Trees properly placed around buildings can reduce air conditioner needs by 30% and can save 20-50% in energy used for heating.



To be continued next month...

Church Conference April 8 @ 4 pm in the Sanctuary

OUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, Rev. Melissa Rynders will preside over the Specially Called Church Conference on April 8 at 4 pm in our Sanctuary. The United Methodist Book of Discipline provides for certain special items of church business to be done in very specific ways, especially when the matters involve real estate, whether it is the sale and purchase of land or a long-term lease. Such matters can be voted on as part of the annual Church Conference, typically held in the fall. When real estate matters come up at other times of the year, United Methodists have two ways for congregations to make those decisions, a Charge Conference, in which the leaders of the church vote, or a specially called Church Conference. A specially called Church Conference or a Charge Conference has a limited agenda as authorized by the District Superintendent and can only address those items specifically on the agenda. Everyone is welcome to attend a Church Conference and all members can vote. When this meeting was authorized, we had three matters on the agenda, but one of them will not go forward at this time (a proposal to lease land to a company that would build a cell tower).

The two remaining items for the agenda are:

1. Update on the sale of land to Circle the City. This sale was already approved by the congregation at a previous specially called Church Conference. Since that time, there has been substantial negotiations and drafting of terms in an effort to finalize the purchase agreement. Certain conditions in the original purchase agreement, while not technically changing the terms of the sale, functioned as a substantial change in what Velda Rose UMC would ultimately receive from the sale, and the Governing Board felt shifted risk in the project onto to Velda Rose UMC. Substantial negotiations, ultimately involving lawyers on both sides, finally resulted in a purchase agreement that the Board feels is consistent with expectations that are the basis of the vote taken by the Church Conference.
2. 3 year Lease of Moore and Martin Hall to TLC Services. TLC Services is a local company that provides education, training, and therapy to children and adults with developmental disabilities. TLC Services is contracted with the Division of Developmental Disabilities under the Department of Economic Security. Their intent in renting space from Velda Rose UMC is to provide day camp, education, and therapy options for their clients beyond what they can provide in the home. You can learn more about TLC Services on their website, www.tlccares.org.

They will be renting Moore Hall and Martin Hall, along with the Martin Kitchen, and all adjoining bathrooms. Velda Rose UMC will be able to use Moore Hall when TLC Services is not using it (for example, on weekends) on a limited basis, which is appropriate since they will be paying for the utilities for the building. The intent of the Governing Board is to remodel the Library, to provide for a small, warming kitchen, and increased space for tables so the Library can be used for some of our larger mid-week groups. With the Library, Madsen Parlor, and the coffee area (continued on next page)

April 8 Church Conference, continued

in the Sanctuary, we believe we can accommodate all of our usual groups that meet on campus. We will also have the use of the commercial kitchen in Moore Hall. TLC does not have the need of a commercial kitchen and so that will be available for preparing meals, etc.

A full copy of the lease is available in the Office during office hours if anyone wants to review the specific terms. The lease does provide for an option to renew the lease. The Monthly Rental Installments, per phase and based on square footage rented:

Phase 1

Months 1-4 \$2,528.00 per month plus tax

Months 5-12 \$7,614.00

Months 13-24 \$7,842.42

Months 25-36 \$8,077.69

Phase 2

Months 6-12 \$5,343.00

Months 13-24 \$5,503.29

Months 25-36 \$5,668.39

The difference between Phase 1 and Phase 2 is TLC's ability to use the second floor of Moore Hall, which in turn depends on receiving a grant to fund the building of the elevator. The grant has been applied for, but we have not yet heard if it was granted.

You can get additional information on April 4 at 4 pm when we will hold an informational meeting in the Sanctuary.

Prayer

Prayer

NEED PRAYER? To be added to the United Women in Faith prayer chain, call Lynda Boysen or contact the church office.

**Our LOVE prayer focus:
North Scottsdale United Methodist**



The Bridge UMC, Phoenix
The Fountains, A UMC, Fountain Hills
White Mountain UMC, Show Low

Beware of Gift Card Scams

A UNITED METHODIST CLERGY MEMBER from a different conference recently shared details about a gift card scam that went to a new level at their church. Someone created a fake account for a member and then emailed the church asking for a new directory. With the directory in hand, the scammer had emails and phone numbers for almost half of the congregation. Next, the scammer created another fake email posing as the pastor asking for gift cards. The emailed request looked legitimate because it included the pastor's name, signature, church name, and the church email address.

Scammers are doing a better job of impersonating people, so it's getting harder to spot a fake email from a legitimate one. With the power of AI, voice cloning could be the next way a scammer might target you.

- 1. No matter how convincing or desperate it may sound**, the pastor will never text, email, or call you asking for your Social Security number, bank account information, or credit card number or ask you to pay anything with gift cards.
- 2. If you paid a scammer with a gift card**, contact the company immediately to see if they have a process to minimize fraudulent activity.
- 3. If you've been scammed**, file a complaint today through the Federal Trade Commission at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint).

How Gift Card Scams Work (via the Federal Trade Commission Consumer Advice):

Gift card scams start with a call, text, email, or

social media message. Scammers will say almost anything to get you to buy gift cards — like Google Play, Apple, or Amazon cards — and hand over the card number and PIN codes. Here are some common tactics scammers use in gift card scams:

- 1. Scammers will say it's urgent.** They will say to pay them right away or something terrible will happen. They don't want you to have time to think about what they're saying or talk to someone you trust. Slow down. Don't pay. It's a scam.
- 2. Scammers will tell you which gift card to buy (and where).** They might

say to put money on an eBay, Google Play, Target, or Apple gift card. They might send you to a specific store — often Walmart, Target, CVS, or Walgreens. Sometimes they'll tell you to buy cards at several stores, so cashiers won't get suspicious. The scammer also might stay on the phone with you while you go to the store and load money onto the card. If this happens to you, hang up. It's a scam.

Scammers will ask you for the gift card number and PIN. The card number and PIN on the back of the card let the scammer get the money you loaded onto the card — even if you still have the card itself. Slow down. Don't give them those numbers or send them a photo of the card. It's a scam.

For a list of common gift card scams and what to do if you give a gift card to a scammer, go to <https://consumer.ftc.gov/articles/avoiding-and-reporting-gift-card-scams>.

Excerpts from [Christina Dillabough](#) at [dscumc.org](#) and [consumer.ftc.gov](#).





Dorothy Kuspis	April 01
Karen Butler	April 05
Maggie Foster	April 06
Frank Yoder	April 06
Jo Lynn White	April 07
Barbara Irving	April 09
Tamara Mulligan	April 09
Jim Oisten	April 10
Donn Larson	April 11
Sheila Arnold	April 12
Jeanne Siedschlag	April 12
Doris McMahan	April 16
Richard Poyer	April 16
Sherrie Bludorn	April 19
Pastor Chan Kim	April 20
Alan Burke	April 24
Maurice Meschke	April 24
Maryoris Walsh	April 24
Steve Oldham	April 25
Roy Knight	April 28
Billie Larime	April 28

*in loving
memory*

Marian Bakle 3/18/2024



VELDA ROSE

United Methodist Church

5540 East Main Street
Mesa, Arizona 85205-8720
(480) 832-2111
Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Stay connected at veldarose.org
or on Facebook at facebook.com/veldaroseumc

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Staff Leadership

Rev. Carlo A. Rapanut, Bishop
Rev. Melissa Rynders, East District Superintendent
Rev. Ann Lyter, Senior Pastor
Rev. Chan Kim, Associate Pastor
Ministers, Every Member of the Congregation

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Wednesday Morning Devotions

10:00 AM

Online at facebook.com/veldaroseumc

Sunday Morning Services

9:30 AM

Online at facebook.com/veldaroseumc
& in-person in the Sanctuary



Our Food Pantry currently needs:

Spaghetti noodles & sauce, Spam, Vienna sausages, canned chicken or tuna, Mac-n-cheese, canned meals, jelly / jam, peanut butter, pancake mix & syrup, fruit / applesauce / pudding cups, canned peas / corn / green beans / diced tomatoes, canned fruit cocktail, pears / peaches, canned

pinto, black, or pork & beans, canned soup (tomato, chicken noodle, beef vegetable), granola bars



Donations are received at the Food Pantry Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Items considered for the May Vision must be submitted to officeadmin@veldarose.org by **Tuesday, April 9, 2024.**