



# LIBERTY LANTERN



VOL. 3, ISSUE 14

NOVEMBER 27, 2025

## FROM THE PASTORS DESK ...

By the time you read this, you may have already celebrated Thanksgiving with family and friends. We are now entering the season of Advent where we anticipate and prepare for Christmas, the time we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

It is an important season in the Christian year, but we need to remember that it is only important because of the events of Easter, the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The thing that frustrates me a little bit is how the reason for Christmas and its celebration has been skewed into a commercial and secular holiday. It seems like Santa Claus has become the focal point of the celebration. It would be disheartening to know how many people never even think about Christ at Christmas.

Don't get me wrong. The secular side of Christmas has its place and is not all bad. It still has the message of love and goodwill toward others in it. I just ask us all to keep it all in perspective and remember that God gave us all the best gift ever the day Christ was born. If we can all come to live our lives as much like Jesus lived His, our world will be a much better place.

Have a joyous and blessed season in our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Bob*



**DECORATING FOR ADVENT IS  
SATURDAY, NOV. 29TH, 9 AM!**



**ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY,  
NOVEMBER 30TH**

*Thank You for Your  
Generosity!*

We delivered eight Thanksgiving baskets to Liberty Elementary School and five boxes of food to All Faith Community Services on Monday, Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>. LaRae, John, Michele, Art, Joanna and Pete helped to load and deliver all the food.



Thank you so much for donating generous amounts of food to needy families!

Our Liberty family is amazing!

Yoshiko F. – LUMWF Missions

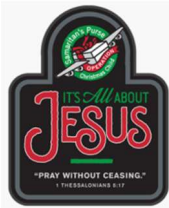
## *Mosaic Workshop ...*

Join Michele J. for the mosaic workshops on **Dec. 5th and Dec. 12th, from 9-12pm**. We are making tiles to line the walkway ramp into the Sanctuary. Join the fun!



*You did it again . . .  
(and again)*

### Operation Christmas Child 2025



was once again a resounding success at Liberty UMC! We packed 100 boxes through the efforts of the congregation and our Liberty United Women in Faith. An added 13 boxes were packed in the on-line goal page. That's 113 opportunities for the Gospel to reach individual children, their families and communities! Thank you to everyone for your continued support of this worldwide outreach.

**Sleep in Heavenly Peace** will be picking up our 100 blankets just in time for Christmas season work in support of their ministry of providing beds and bedding to children in our local community. Let's continue to keep our contact Rusty and all the folks in this wonderful ministry in our prayers.



Liberty United Women in Faith will be sponsoring ten (10) Christmas Angels from Liberty Elementary school.

The names and ages of the children will be available on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** at the LUWIF meeting, and all gifts will be delivered to the school on Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Bodacious Women will be providing wrapping for gifts.

### CHOIR CONCERT & DINNER

The Liberty United Methodist Church congregation has been invited to attend a Christmas dinner event **December 6th at the Church of Latter-Day Saints, 1002 E Eason, in Buckeye.** We are told we do not need to bring anything. The dinner will be pulled-pork sandwiches, beans, and salad.



Our choir will be performing, and their choir will be performing as well. Their tradition includes all singing "His Name is Wonderful" by Chris Tomlin, and familiar carols such as

"Joy to the World." (Song words are displayed on the screen.)

**The Dec. 6th event starts at 5:00pm and is usually over around 6:30pm.**

Let's support our neighbors as they have supported us. This is the organization that provides the great cleaning and landscaping work from through their "Just Serve" youth group.

We need to know how many of us intend to attend. **If you are planning to attend, please complete the RSVP on the bottom of the December calendar and drop in the offering plate this Sunday.**

### TIME TO PARTY!

The **Annual Gift Exchange Christmas**



**Party** for the Liberty United Women in Faith will be held **Tuesday, December 9th in Memorial (Fellowship) Hall at 6:00 PM.**

All women are welcome. Bring a wrapped gift (value about \$20) for the gift exchange. Everyone will draw a number when you arrive, and you'll get a chance to 'steal' or be 'stolen from'!

## GRAB SOME YUM

The annual Cookie Walk is **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, following Worship. Bring some cash and support this LUWIF fundraiser while snagging some delicious cookies! If you are bringing cookies thank you for your four-dozen cookies in support of this annual fundraiser!



## SNAG A GIFT! CRAFT SALE...

During the Cookie Walk there will also be lovely Handcrafted items for Sale. Nona C. will be donating a part of the proceeds from her sales toward the new plumbing needs in Memorial Hall.

## MORE MUSIC!



Ashley and her band members will be part of a **Free Christmas Concert at Buckeye Union High School on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6:30 PM and the**

**concert starts at 7:00.**

The Buckeye Union High School is located at 1000 E Narramore, Buckeye, AZ.

## *In this Season of Thankfulness...*

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Marla and I would like to thank you all for the generous gift for Pastor Appreciation Month. It really comes in handy this time of year.

Also, I would like to thank you for the wonderful birthday celebration. You are all wonderful and we are blessed to be able to serve you and with you.

Pastor Bob

## ADULT STUDY, 8:45 AM SUNDAYS

The video study, "EYE WITNESS CHRISTMAS" began Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. Timed to end the Sunday

before Christmas, the study started with the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of Jesus and ends with an angel explaining the effect of Jesus' birth.

**Join us for the next part of the study on Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>.**

## ADVENT FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL KIDDOS

- Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> – An Angel Visits Mary
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> – Travel to Bethlehem
- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> - Hanukkah!
- Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – Shepherds Visit the Manger
- Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> - Herod the Angry King
- Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany - Three Kings Day

Interested in crafting and kid-fun? Pick a Sunday and volunteer for Sunday School!



And speaking of 'kiddos' ... we are thrilled to be able to announce first, right here in the Liberty Lantern...

**It's a GIRL! Anne-Marie, Robbie, little Alice and Great-grandmom, Marcia S. will be welcoming Nova Phoenix in April 2026!**



## A YEAR (OR A FEW) IN REVIEW...

We want to thank Annette Barnett for submitting a wonderful article for the Liberty Lantern! It's great to have a new contributor, new insight and a new 'voice' in the life of Liberty UMC!

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### **Building Maintenance of Liberty United Methodist Church 2020-2025**

The building planning committee recently reconvened with members Pastor Bob, Annette, Art, Michele, Richard, and Vern. Two meetings were held on October 29 and November 4. The next meeting will be December 9. Watch for updates in the Liberty Lantern where we will share next steps in maintenance and upgrades as approved by our trustees and Advisory Council.

Completed maintenance and upgrades in the past five years, recalled by committee members, are listed below.

We pray you have joyful hearts as you look over this list. It represents the hard work and cheerful giving of our church members, donors, and the Desert Southwest Conference.

Let's give thanks to the Lord for His loving kindness and generosity as we restored our historic buildings.

### **Sanctuary Building**

- ✓ Wall repairs, paint, and drapes
- ✓ Sound system (projector, amplifier, speakers), big screen, media computer, ethernet
- ✓ Controlled door closure; handrails by ramp to front door
- ✓ Bell repair; installation of donated bell
- ✓ Fire repair
- ✓ Main air conditioner repair
- ✓ Altar cloths
- ✓ Handrail to chancel area
- ✓ Two stained glass windows, poly carbonate protection installed on 3 windows

### **Memorial (Fellowship) Hall**

- ✓ Kitchen cabinets organized and excess cleaning products gifted
- ✓ Flooring
- ✓ Toilets and bathroom vanity/sink
- ✓ Paint and curtains
- ✓ Rolling white board
- ✓ Insulation in ceiling
- ✓ Refrigerator

### **Offices and Classrooms**

- ✓ New computers
- ✓ Can lights and paint
- ✓ New air conditioners (office & conf. room)
- ✓ New blinds
- ✓ Storage added, toy safety checks, and organization of Sunday School rooms

### **Grounds**

- ✓ Bushes and palm tree (by irrigation inlet) removed
- ✓ Leach bed on grounds located
- ✓ Metal fence painted
- ✓ New shade on playground equipment, re-stained tables/benches/playground equipment

### **Other**

- ✓ Work study high school student custodial work 2 times/week

## **2026 CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Directory Update requests have been emailed, and we are on track for the 2026 Liberty Church Directory to be released mid-December. If you haven't had time to confirm your information, be sure to see Rachael before December 8<sup>th</sup>!

## **Not to be forgotten ...**



### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**Paula J. – Dec. 2**  
**Kelli C. – Dec. 11**  
**Terry S. – Dec. 12**  
**Vic B. – Dec. 13**  
**Marla L. – Dec. 16**  
**Sonia K. – Dec. 18**  
**Luis K. – Dec. 19**  
**Marcia C. – Dec. 21**  
**Art C. – Dec. 22**  
**Vicki S. – Dec. 26**  
**Brian V. – Dec. 28**

## **IT'S ALMOST TIME!**

We've received our first preview of the official website migration from our new hosting service. The hope will be to launch the updated website with announcements for Advent and Christmas within days. The 'background' pages, a new electronic calendar, our history, etc., will take some time to rebuild but we'll keep you updated on the progress right here!

## **Attention Book Lovers!**

Want to support our community, children's reading AND grab a great bargain?

Stop by the Coyote Branch Buckeye Library (21699 W Yuma) for the Friends of the Buckeye Library Book Sale!



Hardcovers, \$1.00,  
Trade paper, \$0.75,  
Paperbacks, \$0.50.

Members of Friends have an early preview night on Wednesday, 12/3, regular sale days, Thur., 12/4 from 9am-7pm, Fri., 12/5 from 9-4pm and **BAG SALE Sat., 12/6 from 9-4pm.**

# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>No Home Group In December</b>	1	2 LUMW - 10 AM UMM - 10 AM <b>No Youth Zoom</b>	3 Choir Practice 6:30 PM <b>Bulletin info deadline</b>	4 Hand & Foot (Canasta) 6:30 PM, Mem. Hall	5 Mosaic Workshop 9-12 PM, Mem. Hall	6 Christmas Choir Concert, 5 PM LDS Buckeye
7 Potluck Fellowship No Adult Study Youth Study 9 AM	<b>Building Planning Committee Meeting, Dec. 9th</b>	9 LUWIF Gift Excg. 6 PM, Mem. Hall <b>Youth Zoom 6-7:30 PM</b>	10 Choir Practice 6:30 PM <b>Bulletin info deadline</b>	11 Hand & Foot (Canasta) 6:30 PM, Mem. Hall	12 Mosaic Workshop 9-12 PM, Mem. Hall	13
14 Communion Adult & Youth Study Classes at 8:45 AM <b>Worship 10 AM</b> Sun. School 10:15 AM <b>Cookie Walk!</b>	<b>DEC. 14th COOKIE WALK AND CRAFT SALE!</b>	16 Bodacious Women 10 AM - Mem. Hall <b>BUHS Christmas Concert 6:30 PM</b>	17 Choir Practice 6:30 PM <b>Bulletin info deadline</b>	18 Hand & Foot (Canasta) 6:30 PM, Mem. Hall	19	20
21 Adult & Youth Study Classes at 8:45 AM <b>Worship 10 AM</b> Sun. School 10:15 AM	22	23 Bodacious Women 10 AM - Mem. Hall <b>Youth Zoom 6-7:30 PM</b>	24 <b>Candlelight Service 6 PM</b>	25 <b>CHRISTMAS</b>	26	27 Last 2025 Newsletter!
28 Adult & Youth Study Classes at 8:45 AM <b>Worship 10 AM</b> Sun. School 10:15 AM	29	30 Bodacious Women 10 AM - Mem. Hall Youth Zoom 6 PM	31 Choir Practice 6:30 PM <b>Bulletin info deadline</b>	<b>Jan. 1, 2026 Happy New Year!</b>		

Plan to attend the Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Choir Concert?  
Clip the completed RSVP below and place in the offering plate on Sun., Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>!

I/We Plan to attend the Choir Concert at the Latter-Day Saints church in Buckeye on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ How Many? \_\_\_\_\_

