



LIBERTY LANTERN



VOL. 4, ISSUE 11

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

FROM OUR PASTOR'S DESK

Life is C between B and D

French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre once said, "Life is the C (Choice) between B (Birth) and D (Death)." In other words, life is about choices. Our lives are made up of important and decisive choices, as well as small and everyday decisions that accumulate and shape us over time. Therefore, it's important to make good choices and give our best without regrets once we've made a choice.

In a certain town, a store opened where women could choose their ideal men. The store had five floors, each offering men with different qualities. The rule was simple: once you left a floor, you could not go back.

Two women entered the store. On the first floor, they saw a sign: "Men with stable jobs who love children." They found someone interesting, but their curiosity led them to the second floor.

The second floor offered men who "earn well, love children, and are handsome." They were pleased, but went on to the third floor, where the men also "help with household chores."

"Wow! It keeps getting better!" they said as they went to the fourth floor. There, the men "earn well, love children, are handsome, help with household chores, and are romantic and caring."

The women thought, "If the fourth floor is this good, imagine what is waiting upstairs!" So, they rushed to the fifth floor.

There they found a sign: "The fifth floor is under repair. We apologize, but you

When the opportunity for choice arises, do not miss it. Make wise decisions without regret and give your best to what you have chosen. That is the life we live. We have lived day by day through a series of choices. There have been good decisions and regrettable ones. Life is not about picking ripe fruits, but about choosing good seeds and nurturing them.

Blessings,

Pastor Chan

OCTOBER? ALREADY??

Whoa ... Don't know about your house but around my little homestead September seemed to fly by!

First, welcome back to the full slate of activities at Liberty UMC, with one big change.

- **Choir Practice is back!**
 - Sundays, 9:00 AM, Sanctuary
 - Just pop into the Sanctuary and speak with Richard T. to join in.
- **Liberty United Women in Faith**
 - Meeting **Tues., Oct. 6, 10 AM**, Memorial Hall
- **Bodacious Women Bible Study**
 - Tuesdays, 10 AM, Memorial Hall
 - Signup sheet for study book in Memorial Hall
- **Zoom Women's Bible Study**
 - Zoom, Tuesdays, 6:15 PM,
 - Contact Rachael S. for link info
- **Adult Sunday Study Resumes**
 - Sundays, 8:45 AM, Mem. Hall
- **Hand & Foot**
 - Thurs, 4 PM, Memorial Hall

There's a place for everyone - join in!



LIFE ACROSS SEASONS

Liberty UMC has been a touchstone of faith in the lives of so many. Our little church relies on us as much as we rely on it. The 2026 Commitment drive is underway. A letter from Mike Match, Ad Council Chairman was mailed to each household mid-September, along with a commitment pledge slip. In case you've misplaced the commitment slip (admit it, we all have one year or another), we are including a copy here:

Clip and return by placing in the Offering, pass to Barbara K., or simply mail in!

		I/We _____ (Your or Family name)
Commit to support Liberty United Methodist Church in 2027 in the following ways:		
☐ Prayer	To pray for continued growth as a Body of Christ in mission to the world.	to be given as: (choose one) Option A: \$ _____, weekly Option B: \$ _____, monthly
☐ Presence	To faithfully attend Sunday Worship.	
☐ Service	To serve in the ministries of Liberty UMC.	
☐ Witness	To encourage others to journey in mission with us through invitation and example.	
☐ Finance	To do our part in supporting Liberty UMC with a financial commitment for 2027 of: \$ _____	

Please mail or bring to: Liberty United Methodist Church, 19900 W. MC 85 Buckeye, AZ 85326 Attn: Barb Kisseil Financial Secretary

A REMINDER & END OF YEAR PLANNING

Alongside the 2026 Commitment drive, it's not too late to set up a contribution as part of any RMD - Required Minimum Distributions.

If giving to Liberty UMC is part of your retirement financial plan, ***and*** you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) **it could help reduce the tax hit from your RMD.**

What is a QCD?

QCDs allow individuals age 70½ and older to make tax-free donations directly from an IRA to a qualified charity, potentially satisfying all or part of their annual RMDs from their IRA accounts

Generally, you can make a QCD from any tax-deferred IRA account, such as a traditional IRA, inherited IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and SEP IRA. However, a direct transfer of a QCD from a SIMPLE or SEP IRA can only be done if the account is inactive; meaning you're no longer contributing to it.

Note - The IRS does not allow you to make a charitable contribution from a workplace retirement plan, like a 401(k).

If you have questions related to the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) check with your plan or financial planner for details!

AND CHARGE CONFERENCE 2026

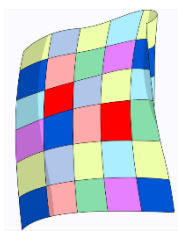
The Annual Charge Conference for Liberty UMC is set for **Saturday, October 25th at 1 PM.**

This year the District is holding a cluster conference and we will be attending our Charge Conference with Community Church of Buckeye and Christ Community UMC of Avondale, who will also be hosting.

The address for Christ Community is 104 W Western, Avondale.

Watch the website for additional info!

IN HONOR OF ANNA ECKLEBERRY



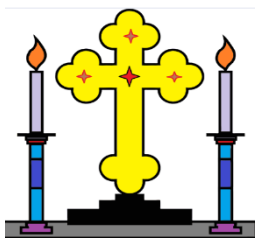
The 3rd Liberty Blanket Drive is underway. The goal is 100 blankets, new or gently used and cleaned, to support Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Watch for the tally board to appear soon!

Blankets may be left in the very back pews of the Sanctuary.

WORSHIP . . . OR PRAISE?

Did you know the Old Testament Hebrew word translated as 'worship' literally denotes the act of bowing down? The word in ancient Greek rendered as 'worship,' means **"to encounter God and praise Him."**



One is intertwined with surrender, the other with thanksgiving. Have you ever considered 'worship' and 'praise' as separate but occurring simultaneously?



NEVER TOO EARLY FOR OUTREACH!

Sunday, Sept. 27th is the Liberty UMC Shoebox Kick-Off event! Pick up your box or boxes and join in the fun.

This year we are celebrating with a few childhood favorites to reawaken the 'kid' in us all.

The Operation Christmas Child (OCC) program isn't a 'charity' gift for the child who receives a shoebox. Every box is an opportunity to extend the living Gospel into the lives of that child, their family, their community and beyond.

In 2025, Samaritan's Purse collected 12.2 million shoebox gifts globally. In 2026 just the West Valley is projected to pack more than 15,000 Shoeboxes! And since its beginning in 1993, OCC has collected and **delivered more than 244 million shoebox gifts** to children in more than 175 countries and territories.

Want to take part but can't get out enough to shop in person? Consider building a Shoebox online, it's a real bargain!

The LUMC Shoebox on-line page can be reached with this link:

<https://sampur.se/4jzC9V7>

Or scan the QR code below:



Check out the demonstration table for the on-line shoebox packing on Sun., the 27th!

THANK YOU WORSHIP TEAM!

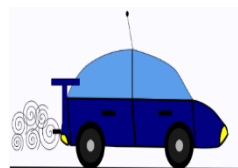
The Worship team had a productive meeting on Sunday, Oct. 20th and more information on Advent will be coming soon.

But, before we jump into the Advent Season, let's pass a few other milestones coming soon:



- Nov. 1 - Pastor Appreciation Potluck
- Nov. 8 - Veteran's Sunday
- Nov. 15 - Next Worship Team Meeting
- Nov. 28 - Advent Decorating, Sat., 9 AM

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET?



Home visits with Pastor Chan are a focus of pastoral care and there are spaces available in his calendar. Sign-up sheets in Memorial Hall.

WINDOW # 8 IS UNDERWAY!



August 29 our glazer apprentice, Nick V. and handyman guy, Bob Carlson, removed all the window panels, then traced and measured and re-installed them for our eighth window.

All the work for Window #8, entitled "Love your neighbor" from Matthew 22:39, will have plenty of steps along the way to help. The glass will be ordered shortly. Watch for the chance to begin helping with the process of preparing the patterns, cutting and leading the glass.

Learn something new and contribute to the effort toward the beautiful windows of Liberty UMC!

See Michele J. for information.



MORE UPDATES ...

Did you know there's been an almost invisible change in the Sanctuary? Recently the south-facing double doors

were replaced. We now have a regulation fire door! Thank you to Vern R. and Terry S. for coordinating the work with the contractor and getting all the final adjustments done after the install work 'settled'.

There is still a bit of work to be completed, paint and finishes, not just for the door but for a few other projects as well. Watch for some workdays on the church calendar now that the weather is beginning to cool...

BIBLE HUMOR!



"Everything you need to know about life can be learned from Noah's Ark: 1. Don't miss the boat; 2. Remember we are all in the same boat; 3. Plan ahead, it wasn't raining when Noah build the Ark; 4. Stay fit, when you're old someone may ask you to do something really big, brave or hard; 5. Don't listen to every critic, just get on with the job that needs to get done as directed by the builder; 6. Build your future on high, solid ground; set a level line; 7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs; 8. Speed isn't everything, snails and cheetah were both on the same Ark; 9. When you're stressed, float awhile; 10. Remember the Ark was built by amateurs under a Master Builder; **11. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting somewhere."**

Author Unknown

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Need to contact the Liberty Lantern? Email us at
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