



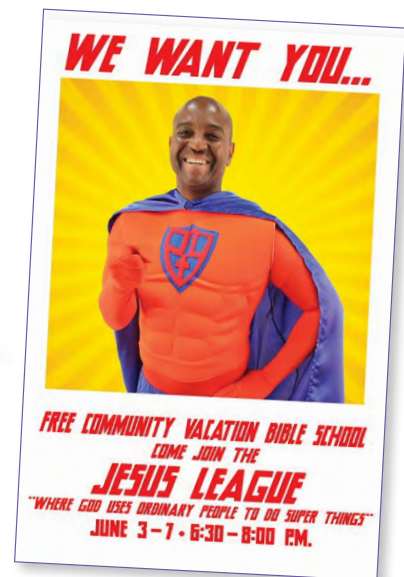
The BELL TOWER

A Newsletter of The Church at Litchfield Park

Summer 2019

Fun, Free Summer Vacation Bible School Planned!

This year we're joining the Jesus League—find out how God Uses Ordinary People To Do Super Things! There will be music, crafts, adventures and snacks each day. Friday will be our big Family Celebration with hot dogs, chips, drinks, snow cones, popcorn, water slides, balloon twister and the kids will perform all of the music that they have learned throughout the week.



This is a free week-long event and ALL children in the community age three through grade five are welcome. Children will be guided by church staff and trained volunteers in a safe and caring environment. Registration forms are available at the church office and on the church Facebook page. Children can also register at the VBS event.

Meet Kristin McNamara: Children's Ministry Director



Kristin has been the church's nursery coordinator for several years prior to joining the staff as the Children's Ministry Director. In this role, Kristin is responsible for programming and activities at the church for all children from birth through grade five. This includes Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the Easter Egg Hunt, and more. Kristin and her family live in Surprise and her daughter, Charlie, will go into first grade next Fall. They have lived in the West Valley for about six-and-half years. Kristin is passionate about working with children and has taught Sunday school at various places since college. In college, she was an English major and hoped to teach English and theater to junior high students.

"I really like making God relevant to kids. Church is a big place to them—with big ideas—and I enjoying being able to bring it to their level through bible stories and lessons," said Kristin.

Kristin is originally from Southern California, but her husband is an Arizona native and also her partner in operating their own puppet theater, which hosts puppet shows for mature audiences. When not ministering to the children at church, Kristin enjoys sewing, cooking, and is a fan of romantic comedies, and more so, *Star Wars*.

Meet Julie Rapp: Office Manager



Hi, I'm Julie! Here's just a little information about me. I was born and raised in Arizona, along with my husband. We have been married 25 years and have three fantastic children and three beautiful grand babies. They are our absolute joy! Family is the most important thing in my life. I enjoy baking, crafts, camping and kayaking. I adore meeting new people and having long lasting friendships through the Lord.

I previously worked at Marketing Innovations for nine years and treasured every moment. The owner retired, leaving me to find my next forever home. Not knowing where my career would lead, I prayed and searched diligently to find the best fit. While I was online searching, the job posting for The Church at Litchfield Park kept popping to the top of the list. Each day during my search, it was there like a beacon of light. I realized God was showing me where my next forever home would be. And since that day I have been so grateful. Each day is a blessing and meeting everyone here has been fantastic. I want to thank you all for the warm welcome and I hope to continue to prosper as your Office Manager and Bookkeeper.

Stewardship Series

During the month of June, our Stewardship Series will focus on the different aspects of stewardship and giving:

- June 2:** Creation
- June 9:** Gifts & Talents from the Spirit (*Pentecost Sunday*)
- June 16:** Relationships (*Other People*)
- June 23:** Institutions (*The Church, Marriage and Family*)
- June 30:** Finances

Welcome

New Church Members!

April: Casey Alward, A.J. Denaro, Mitchell Magee, Millie Moran, Zoe Rider, Andrew Smith, Elise Andres, Emma Gilchrist, Kennedy Massey, Ethan Rankin, Matthew Sidell, Josh Van Riper

May: Roy, Jill, and Andrew Poole, Sharon Cotman, Emily Cotman, Margaret Kinney, Ray and Mari Riggins

Support Groups

CAREGIVER SUPPORT



Marcy Clement

Do you or someone you know regularly look after a person with a long-term illness? Our hope is to teach and encourage self-care as well as provide a confidential place to share with others in similar situations. Rev. Sharon Connors writes, "What God brings you to, God takes you through." May this be an opportunity for supportive understanding surrounded by God's love and grace. Please join us on the first Sunday of each month immediately following the 10:45 service in Classroom 5. Marcy Clement assists with facilitating the Caregiver Support Group.

GRIEF SUPPORT



Kathy Bilak

Learning to live again after a life change (i.e. the death of loved one or friend, job loss, relationship loss, etc.) can be very difficult. We all grieve in different ways: some focus primarily on the emotions, others try to avoid grief altogether, and some want to read their way through it. We want to join you on the path to healing by offering a grief support group. Kathy Bilak and Leanne Walgren hope to walk with you as you travel through your grief. We will meet for six weeks on Sundays, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Fireside Room North. The dates are as follows: June 9, 16, 23 and 30, July 14 and 21. We

are using a compassionate resource called *Traveling Through Grief: Learning to Live Again After the Death of a Loved One* as a guide as well as life experiences to help you find your road to recovery. If you do not already have a copy of this book, copies will be available at each gathering. If you have questions, please call the church office at 623-935-3411 or speak with Kathy or Leanne.

CHRONIC ILLNESS SUPPORT

The Chronic Illness Support Group was formed to provide a time and place for those with a chronic illness or condition to share their stories, fears and advice. It is a confidential environment where group members can feel free to open up, or simply listen, all while feeling God's loving arms providing strength and support. We meet on the first Sunday of each month following the 10:45 service on Fireside South. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Bilak or the church office.

Thanksgiving and Joy

As we end the month of May and prepare for the summer, we tend to look at our calendars with expectations: Vacation Bible School, mission trips, heat, vacations... It is the natural rhythm in our lives: finishing one season and onto the next. The church calendar also has seasons. The Easter season will soon end and the season of Pentecost will begin. This event, however, was definitely not routine.

The disciples sat in the upper room waiting for their next move. Then, we know a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from Heaven and filled whole house. All were filled with the Holy Spirit. Once this Holy Spirit comes into their lives they are moved and amazed. Peter explains to them the significance of the Holy Spirit and that God will never leave them alone – “the Promise of the Holy Spirit is for you and your children and for all.” It is a moment that changed every routine, every action, and every decision. We are told, “Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”

The followers of Jesus Christ grew exponentially that day because of the willingness of people to be open and ready for whatever God had next for them. Here came the Holy Spirit! Do you ever wonder about those who sat back and watched? We read that some made fun of the followers and some believed they had too much to drink. They were missing out on this blessing that was right in front of them.

We have a choice. We can open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, allowing it to be our guide. Or, we can sit back and wait. God gives us opportunities to live out His love each and every day. When we do this, we not only bless another, but we are filled with love. The choice is ours.

May we be like those disciples in that upper room—looking for the awe and wonder that God places around us. May we be willing participants—willing to move away from our natural rhythms and routines—to listen and to act on what the Lord is placing on our hearts. He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed! Come Holy Spirit!

Pastor Kerri Sandusky

New Lecture Series

TUESDAYS, 10:00 a.m. in SOUERS HALL

Presented by the Litchfield Park Historical Society in partnership with The Church at Litchfield Park.



JUNE 18, 2019: John Wesley Powell: Into the Great Unknown

Speakers Chris Glen and Sandy Sunseri tell the story of John Wesley Powell, a one-armed Civil War veteran who set out with nine men, four boats, and ten months of rations to navigate and document the Colorado River's course through the Grand Canyon. Listen to this exciting tale and see film clips of the raging Colorado as it was in Powell's time.

JULY 9, 2019: Plumbing the Colorado

When you turn the water on in your home, where does that water come from? What makes up Goodyear or Litchfield Park's water portfolio? Why was the Shortage Sharing Agreement so important? The U of A Cooperative Extension's Arizona Project WET Education Coordinator and church member, Pam Justice will offer an information packed presentation that answers not only those questions but examines the importance of Colorado River water to Arizona.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.



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It's Summer Mission Trip Time!

After a hugely successful fundraising spaghetti dinner, our youth are now preparing for their mission trips. They will be studying 1 Corinthians 13 throughout their week together. We will be looking at the definition of love, how we love, how God sees love in us, and how we see God's love in others.



IGNITE: Junior High Youth Group
 Flagstaff | June 24-June 28

The junior high youth group will be serving at the food bank, homeless shelter, and any other place we are needed. Sue Kujawski has graciously offered her home and cooking

expertise to us during the five-day trip! Please be in prayer for: Rylee, Flora Mina, Brian, Meghan, Lilly, Carlie, Alex, Karli, Geo, Zachary, Layla, Sue, Jay, and Pastor Kerri.

PULSE: High School Youth Group
 San Diego | July 14-July 20

The high school youth group hope to partner with Habitat for Humanity as well as some of the homeless shelters in San Diego. A couple of homes have been rented to provide us with a place for Bible study, cooking, refreshing, and of course, sleeping. Please be in prayer for: Catherine, Caitlyn, Emma G., Jane, Desmond, Matthew, Josh, Corinne, Nate, Emma B., Madison, Cole, Kelly, Chantel, Alexis, Aspen, Casey, Andrew, Katy, Zoe, A.J., Brendon, Jenika, Beth, Steve, Jay, and Pastor Kerri.

Please pray for our safety and guidance, that we will be moved by the Holy Spirit as we serve others.