Get ready to blast off! This year for VBS we are doing a Summer Kids Club at Bushmaster Park. This year the theme is GALACTIC STARVEYORS – where kids will search the skies and discover the God who created the cosmos! This is going to be an amazing opportunity for us to share our faith with kids and families that have never heard about Jesus. We will be meeting at the park each Sunday in July from 4:00-6:00pm, including a dinner at the park, so put those dates on the calendar.

More details will be coming in over the next couple weeks so stay in touch with us. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering, email Kevin - kevin@thumc.com. This is going to be INCREDIBLE, but there are lots of needs and details – please keep us in your prayers this summer, and talk to us about helping out!

We Need Volunteers

Volunteer to help out at the program, help prepare crafts and game materials ahead of time, help contact families and spread the word to the neighborhood. If interested, please contact Kevin or call the church office.

Animate your faith!

Rev. Ron will lead a seven week Bible Study at 6pm, beginning Thursday, July 6. “Animate: Bible.” Adults, young adults, and youth are invited to take part!

Animate is a series of Bible studies utilizing fresh Christian voices to share about the concepts of faith. This study will look at the Bible as a whole, discussing the following topics: Canon, History, Testaments, Gospels, Genre, Interpretation, and Grace.

You can find out more about the study by visiting: [https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/adults/animate/bible/](https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/adults/animate/bible/)

Please RSVP by Thursday, June 15, if you would like an Animate Journal ordered for you.
Holy Huddle on Church Unity
with Bishop Bob Hoshibata and District Superintendent Dan Morley

Saturday, April 1 United Methodists from across northern Arizona gathered in Trinity Heights Celebration Hall for a “Holy Huddle” to converse with one another around a theme of uniformity or unity amongst United Methodists. Bishop Bob facilitated three hours of small group dialogue and worship that felt like one hour. It was an amazing time of open conversation with one central topic being whether UMC leaders (pastors, superintendents, bishops) can come out of the LGBTQ community — and where is the General Conference of the United Methodist Church likely to stand on this issue.

Soon after the Holy Huddles, held throughout the Desert Southwest Conference, Bishop Bob shared, “In my experience as your bishop, I know that there exists a broad range of beliefs about this matter. There are good and faithful United Methodists on both sides of the question before the Judicial Council. The conversations at our Holy Huddles on Church Unity confirmed this! The overwhelming majority of the persons who shared their beliefs and faith were hopeful that we could find a way to work to bridge our differences and be unified as a body of Christ despite our differences. The overwhelming majority voice felt that our United Methodist Church was like a big tent or a house with many rooms, where we could live together, focused on mission and ministry as our source of unity. We believe that God is calling us to this unity despite our differences.”

This was truly my experience at our Holy Huddle. I watched in one small group dialogue as two members of one congregation shared their diametrically opposed opinions on this topic. They each were articulate, gracious, and firm in their interpretation of what the Bible says and what Jesus Christ says on the topic. They each quoted scripture and personal experience. At the conclusion of the small group dialogue, they each stood and met each other in the middle of the circle, embraced in a hug of unity; not uniformity. They were living, breathing role models that we do not have to uniformly believe the exact same thing in order to celebrate our faith in God and Jesus Christ together day after day with those who are believers and those who are just not quite believers yet. I left the Holy Huddle believing this conversation does not have to divide the United Methodist Church international, or our local congregation. God is good.

Cindy Payne
THUMC Lay Leader

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

— John Wesley
We have the opportunity to host a High School bell choir from Salt Lake City. They will perform a concert on Friday, June 16 at 7:30 in the Celebration Hall.

After the concert they need to go home with great families and get a good night's rest and be back at the church by 7:30 a.m. Saturday June, 17.

The students are paired together and most of the adults are in groups of one or two - SO we need 4 homes willing to take a pair boys, four homes willing to take a pair of girls and approximately 4 homes for adults.

Please email Linda Stamer if you are willing and able. (linda.stamer@gmail.com)
Be an Intern with Children’s Ministry

We have created an internship program because we want to develop young people to be great leaders at home, church, school, and work! New interns will work with the Director of Children and Family Programs to identify their strengths and skills, make a plan for growing, and find a great place to serve in our ministry to kids this summer. You’ll do great work and build your resume! Interested or know a young person who is? Contact Kevin today! kevin@thumc.com

The Ark 6+ Program

The ARK offers summer childcare for alumni of the program and church families, called “6+.” If you are still looking for summer care for your children, please consider this program! This year’s staff includes a teacher from the Flagstaff Unified School District, overseeing the six plus program and activities. This group will have an amazing summer filled with learning activities and adventure such as trips to Lowell Observatory, Peter Piper Pizza, Recycling Center, Harkins Movie Theater, StarLite Bowling, Walnut Canyon, East Flagstaff Public Library, Hiking Trails on Mt. Elden and Bushmaster Park. Register your children at www.thumc.com/sixplus

Prayer Force has ended for summer break. Looking forward to seeing you again when school starts!

Sunday School continues through the summer. Be sure to invite your friends. 9:00 am each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

Rebecca Durrenburger has had her art displayed in the hallway outside of Celebration Hall for several weeks. If you are interested in purchasing any of the work you see it is all for sale. Half of the proceeds will go to the youth program.

Fundraising Opportunities
to help the youth help you

- Stock Sale - purchase your own personalized missions trip report
- Yard Clean-Up - rent-a youth

Please contact Elisabeth if you are interested in either of these services
Apache Mission Trip 2017

The trip this summer has changed dramatically since getting the word that Doug Handlong will no longer be serving at Anchor Park UMC in Anchorage, AK (he will be moving to Phoenix early this summer). In light of the changes, our team has chosen to instead focus on a trip that stays in our region and still works with the educational and service focus of working with the nearby tribes and Native American people groups. The Apache Youth Ministries in Whiteriver, AZ serves the Apache Tribe in the White Mountains of Arizona. They frequently host missionary groups and do VBS, movie nights, relationship building, and service projects. We will be participating with some Veterans to serve on a house-building project for an elderly woman, as well as encouraging and cleaning for a single mom, and helping with a variety of projects at the youth center. Looking forward to building relationship and partnership with this organization!

A quote from the Apache Youth Ministries Director, Stefan Lucas: *Just so you know, I have been praying for believers in this region to partner with. I want young people who love Jesus to come and minister to our core kids and community throughout the year. We can also make trips your way!*

**CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Youth and Parents: It’s time to start planning our 2017-2018 Confirmation Class. Youth who will be in 8th grade or above starting in the Fall of this year (2017) are encouraged to take part – but we need your response ASAP. To plan the class, we are looking for at least 5 youth committed to attending. Visit [www.thumc.com/confirmation](http://www.thumc.com/confirmation) for more information and to express interest in this next school year’s Confirmation experience.

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**SUMMER EVENTS**

5/21– Graduation celebration Sunday morning! Last youth group of the school year in the evening from 6-8– potluck and party!

5/25– Dress like a pirate for TH Night and then opening night of the new Pirates of the Caribbean movie!

5/28– No Youth group

**JUNE–JULY No Regular Youth Group**

June 13- “Taco Tuesday” mystery trip

June 15– opening night of CARS 3 movie!

June 17- Volunteer at Indian Bible College with Faithworks

June 19-23- SUMMER CAMP– All ages week at Mingus

June 27– “Taco Tuesday” prep supplies for mission trip

June 29-July 5– MISSION TRIP to Apache Youth Ministries

July 2– pick up and sort shoe donations from Terrain Racing mud run for donations to Faithworks w/ Jerry Korn

July 2/9/16/23/30– THUMC VBS– volunteers needed!

July 7– lunch reunion from mission trip; plan for July 9 report

July 17-20- El Nathan Camp VBS

July 18– “Taco Tuesday” provide support to team at El Nathan

July 21- Friday Funday– movie/creek/Grand Canyon/Out of Africa???

July 28-29- Muddy Mortal Race– Harry Potter fan mud run– register online: [https://www.eventbee.com/v/muddymortalflagstaff#/tickets](https://www.eventbee.com/v/muddymortalflagstaff#/tickets)
This June, we have 18 children and youth associated with Trinity Heights, plus 5 adults!, going to camp for a week (or more)!

During their week at camp (June 19-23), our Elementary and Jr High Campers will be encouraged and challenged to learn how we, as Christians, “branch out” from Jesus Christ. Drawing from Jesus’ teaching about the vine and branches (John 15:1-11), this year’s camp curriculum makes connection between one’s personal faith and the Christian community. Both Kevin and Elisabeth will be joining others as part of the volunteer staffs for these experiences.

And that’s not all! The same week our Sr High Campers will have a (new!) experience at Leadership Camp. With insights from the Disney Institute around leadership (led by Rev. Dan Hurlbert, a long-time Disney fan and Institute participant), opportunities for service with elementary campers, private journaling, and communal reflection with Rev. Ron Bartlow, this camp experience will seek to encourage and empower youth to see their potential for leadership as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In addition, 2 children and 3 adults from Trinity Heights will be going to Horse Camp (June 5-10). With day time activities centered around horse-care and horseback riding, our camp’s evening activities will share from the same themes of Christian community.

These experiences of camp are about more than just having fun. In the safe environment of Mingus Mountain Camp and Retreat Center, campers and volunteer staff will have an experience in “creative dislocation.” As we step out of our day-to-day schedules and into new (albeit short-term) relationships, we’ll experience the presence of God’s Holy Spirit among us and surrounding us. Camp changes lives as participants grow in their experience of and trust in God in an intensive, intentional Christian community.

We invite you to be in prayer for our campers and volunteers during their week(s) at camp!