



UU Church of Surprise • 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, AZ 85378 • 623-875-2550

**New in the K-4<sup>th</sup> Classroom, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

January 14<sup>th</sup> will be the introduction of a new classroom ritual. We will begin to take up a “token” weekly collection in the classroom to teach the kids about stewardship. These will be the words to accompany this weekly ritual: *“There are many different ways to support organizations that give our lives enrichment. Supporting that which supports us is called stewardship. We will now take up a monetary collection to help keep our congregation thriving. Thank you for any donation that you have to offer.”*

**Special Service and Congregational Photo, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

January 21<sup>st</sup> is the congregational “Pledge Kick-off”. The end of the service will be dedicated to this event and may run longer than our typical hour. At 11:30 the children will be brought into the sanctuary and be asked to go and find a seat with their families. Children 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up are to assist in the handing out of pledge cards. This task will be reviewed with them in the classroom. Immediately following service, a new congregational picture will be taken.

**Children’s Basketball Net Update**

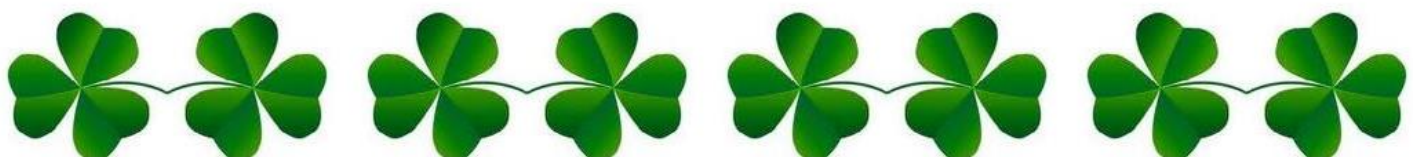
It has been concluded, after three months of polling and discussion with several RE families, that selling the over-sized and under-used basketball net is a good plan of action. The proceeds will go towards the purchase of a net that is more easily maneuvered and takes up less storage space.

**Parenting Class, January 28th**

Our next parenting class will be on Sunday, January 28<sup>th</sup> from noon-1:30 in the choir room. Childcare will be provided. Jeff Drake will be discussing conflict resolution tools and perspectives and how to build day-to-day cooperation and harmony in the household. All are welcome. Please R.S.V.P. to Jeff Drake at [drakej23@gmail.com](mailto:drakej23@gmail.com)

**Visiting Neighboring Faiths**

As our children are exploring world religions this year, visiting neighboring houses of worship is intended to be part of the overall experience. I am working on arranging several visits for our families to visit some close by neighboring faiths and will publicize as soon as dates have been confirmed. I would love for a group of us to be able to attend a service, join a children’s class and meet some families.



### **RE Family Service Project, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Come and join us on **Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** to help craft Valentine's for Benevilla "Meals on Wheels" recipients. When we are finished, we will head over to the community center itself for a nice "Buy Your Own" lunch at Birt's Bistro and (I hope) a quick tour of Benevilla. The cards will be delivered to the center and distributed to "Meals on Wheels" recipients on Valentine's Day by the volunteers who transport the meals. Please RSVP to [lisal@uusurprise.org](mailto:lisal@uusurprise.org) by Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> so I can make reservations and confirm the tour.

#### **Schedule of Events:**

- 10:00-11:30 Meet at church to craft Valentine Cards
- 11:30-11:45 Travel to Benevilla: **16752 N. Greasewood St., Surprise, AZ 85378**
- 11:45-1:00 Lunch at Birt's Bistro and possible tour of Benevilla

#### **Benevilla**

*Benevilla is a human services agency that provides:* day programs for seniors with and without disabilities; Wirtzie's Preschool and Child Care; resources for those needing services; in-home help for seniors and homebound adults; assistance from 1000's of volunteers who provide: home delivered meals on wheels, grocery shopping, errands, transportation to medical appointments and basic handyman services. Benevilla also has a wide range of support groups for caregiving families and those with specific needs.

### **Annual Church Auction, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**

This year's auction is planned for Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. All are welcome. More information TBA.

### **Annual Church Picnic/Cookout at White Tanks Regional Park, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

All are welcome to this fun, outdoor event being organized by the Children's RE Committee. Join us on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at Ramada 4F from 2:30-6:30 p.m. and bring a main entree for your family to grill and an additional dish to share with the group. Look for a sign-up sheet on the community table in the social hall mid-February. Park entry fee is \$6 per vehicle. Bring your own chairs. Hope to see you there! Please contact [lisal@uusurprise.org](mailto:lisal@uusurprise.org) with any questions.

