



New Song Notes

January 2026
Issue 1

A New Year. New health goals.

There is something nice and fresh in thinking about the new year. It is clean, like new fresh sheets, or a new, blank piece of paper. It is full of opportunity and comforting in its own way.

Many of us will take this opportunity to make new health goals for ourselves. It is also easier for us to do that now, after the season of sweet treat gifting is over.



Did you know that the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was actually a proponent of healthy practices? He saw the connection between physical health and spiritual, emotional and mental health. He even published his thoughts and recommendations for healthy practices and it became a best seller. Even though it was written in the year 1847 he gave advice that most of us would agree are healthy practices even today. Feel free to peruse the document yourself at: http://thornber.net/medicine/html/primitive_printable.pdf

Some notables from the document include: keep a clean house and body, stay away from smoked, pickled or salted foods, “water is the wholesomest of all the drinks”, “spiritous liquors are a certain and slow poison,” exercise is necessary to good, long health, walking is the best exercise, and walking outside is even better. Also going to bed at 9:00 pm, and waking at 4:00 am is good for us.

He also had advice for curing baldness: “rub the part morning and evening, with onions, till it is red, and rub it afterwards with honey. - or wash it with a decoction of boxwood. - Or electrify it daily.” Hmmm. interesting.

Most of all, John Wesley knew that even the knowledge of how to care and treat our health was a gift from God.

“Wesley understood that physical and spiritual health were connected. In a letter dated October 26, 1778, he offers this telling advice to his friend, Alexander Knox:

Alleck... it will be a double blessing if you give yourself up to the Great Physician, that He may heal soul and body together. And unquestionably this is His design. He wants to give you...both inward and outward health.

(<https://www.umc.org/en/content/getting-in-shape-wesley-health-tips-apply-today-mostly>)

(cont. on pg 2)

Contact Us

623-584-9418 or 623-584-9656
Website: newsongsurprise.org

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New Song UMC Surprise AZ



New Song
United Methodist Church

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Extra links to John Wesley and health:

<https://www.mhm.org/lifestyle-changes-and-population-health-the-words-of-john-wesley/>

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/wesley-and-physical-health-practicing-what-he-preached>

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/wesleys-diet-exercise-tips-promote-health>

May this year be one of health, happiness, and a passion for following God. Amen.

Pastor Misty Howick

A WONDERFUL DONATION

If you have been in church recently, you may have seen 4 brand new wooden offering plates. Here is their story:

The plates were crafted and hand polished by Larry Barr of Cattaraugus, NY. They were commissioned by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, in Paradise Valley, AZ as a memorial for a dear member, Elliot Perriott, who passed away after a long battle with cancer, at too young an age.

Larry Barr was the uncle of Ann Skipper, previous member of Spirit Song Church and member of New Song Church who served at Gloria Dei as their Administrator for over 22 years. The plates were used in worship until the church closed in 2021. Gloria Dei became a Federated Church with Palo Christi Presbyterian Church in 2022, becoming Gloria Christi Federated Church. Gloria Christ closed in 2024 and Ann was given back the plates because of her family connection.

Ann has lovingly given them to New Song UMC to be used and to glorify God in our worship services.



Pardon our dust.
Construction may be starting soon.

JANUARY SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 am Adult Sunday School, Music Rehearsals

10:00 am Coffee and Fellowship

10:30 am Worship, Sunday School for preschool, elementary children, and youth (start in Worship)

11:45 am Handbells (all), Youth Group (2nd & 4th Sundays)

1st Sunday of the month - Communion is served, so youth and elementary children stay in Worship.
Preschool Sunday School is available every Sunday.

Grief Support



Grief Support for 2026 is Scheduled!

The Grief Group is facilitated by Kim Riddlesworth, Chaplain Dan Brookey and Chaplain Kathy Norris. Held at Fellowship Square in the Granite Mountain Room (GMR 2nd floor), it starts at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, is held once a week on Wednesdays until April 1, 2026, and runs about 2 hours.

We use the GriefShare Program, which has a subject video, then a break, and then small group discussions. Workbooks will be provided, and a \$20.00 donation would be appreciated. If you would like Grief Support, please put this on your schedules. Sign up on the clip board "Grief Support 2026" in the information racks so that we will have enough supplies. We look forward to seeing you there.



Join us to learn about Jesus's life in 100 days

In our time between Christmas and Easter, New Song will be focusing on the life of Jesus. Come and walk with us in January as we *learn the meaning of the visit of the Magi*, examine where Jesus grew up and why it is important, explore Jesus' baptism, and delve into what Jesus taught about Forgiveness and God's Love and why he taught it.

The study will include Sunday sermons and daily devotions.

Future topics include What Jesus taught about a new way of being obedient, Christ as son of God and son of man, the beatitudes and hope, Jesus' healings, relationships between Jesus and the pharisees, the relationship between Jesus and Peter, the relationships between Jesus and the other disciples, and Jesus' relationships with women.

CHRISTMAS BOXES

Members and friends of New Song closed 2025 with an amazing outpouring of generosity. Nineteen families from the Dysart Unified School District were the recipients of donated grocery items, grocery gift cards and handmade quilts. In addition, all 60 children in these families received a gift of clothing and a non-clothing gift. Thank you to the many members who made the quilts, shopped for food and gifts, organized the donations, and loaded and delivered the boxes to the families. We couldn't have done it without you. A special thank you to Myrna Bishop and Carol Shears whose dedication and attention to detail blesses this mission.



Animals 4 God



HAPPY NEW YEAR from Animals 4 God!

On November 22, 2025, **Animals 4 God** held our annual Pet Blessing, a beautiful gathering where we celebrated the special bond between us and our furry friends. Pastor Misty shared a meaningful message about the animals that God has placed on this earth, reminding us that animals were saved from the flood and became part of the covenant with Noah. She also touched on how a giant fish saved Jonah and how ravens brought bread to Elijah, showing us that God uses all creatures in His plan.

Our pets bring us so much comfort and joy, offering us their unconditional love day in and day out. We've seen the powerful impact they have, especially with the foster children in our community. We have watched as the kids' reading levels improved simply by reading to and petting our animals. We've also listened to heartfelt stories from these children about the pets they had to leave behind when they entered foster care—a reminder of the deep connection we have with our animals.

This year's "Blessing of the Animals" was a special occasion, with 14 pet parents, 13 dogs, and 2 cats receiving a blessing from Pastor Misty. After the ceremony, we all shared stories about our pets—some funny, some heartwarming—and of course, we couldn't resist petting and loving on every animal there. We also took a moment to remember and mourn the loss of some of our "furry friends" who are no longer with us.

Blessing our animals is more than just a tradition for our pets; it's a way for all of us to connect as pet parents. Our animals are so much more than just pets—they're family. The love they give us is pure, and our lives are richer because of the joy and comfort they bring.

*Happy
New Year!*



CAN YOU HELP?

We are passionate about bringing the healing effect of dogs' unconditional love into the lives of people in the community, especially those who are home-bound or in a medical facility. Becoming a therapy dog team involves a bit of work beforehand, but the effort is well worth it. If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Dog & Handler team for therapy work, please contact us at: Animals4God@gmail.com.

Interested in becoming a part of our ministry?

You don't have to own a pet or be a member of New Song to join. You just need to have a desire to serve God by planning and participating in activities which enrich the lives of others by sharing our pets. We also strive to do God's will as He challenges us to care for all the animals of the Earth by hosting educational activities with guest speakers and organizing collection events to donate to area shelters. We meet at the church on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm. We also host the Reading Program on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:00 pm when school is in session.



Care and Nurture Ministries



Caregiver Support

By Pam McNeal Laue

Caregiver Support Group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at 10:30 am at Starbucks on Reems Rd and Grand Ave. (18885 N Reems Rd Surprise AZ 85374). The group started in 2023 to offer support to caregivers currently or previously caring for loved ones. There is no structured agenda. Participants do not have to be a member of the church. Group members offer emotional support, understanding, love and caring to one another with empathy and shared experience. For additional information contact Pam McNeal Laue at pmclaue@hotmail.com.



Prayer Force meets Monday mornings in the Sanctuary at 10:15am to pray for the needs of individuals and the church.

All are welcome to come and pray with us.

Card Ministry

By Eileen Johnson

The Card Ministry has 2 groups — those who make the hand-crafted greeting cards, and those who write a special message to the person receiving the card.

PJ and Faye from the Prayer Force are faithful members of the Card Ministry as they write messages every Monday morning, and other times as needed. They love the card stamp that says “Praying For You” as it fits so well with the special message they write in the card.

New Song Church also sends Birthday cards and Anniversary cards throughout the year, which are prepared and mailed by Jacque Laats.

The Card Ministry also provides cards for Jan Mills as she sends about 12 cards on special occasions to our military families.

And finally the Card Ministry provides cards to Kathy Norris so that she can send a written Welcome to visitors or new members, plus Get Well cards as needed.

If you would like to make cards, contact Eileen Johnson at johnson.eileen62@gmail.com for details.

These cards are one way for the New Song Church family to reach out in love and caring. Both those who make the cards, and those who send them, are blessed by this Ministry.

**Looking for a Stephen Minister?
Look for a person wearing
the blue name badge
before or after each service
or call the office.**





Missions and Outreach



**As of November 30
YOU have donated
\$5,119
to Missions in 2025.**

St. Mary's Foodbank Volunteer work: We will continue in 2026 to volunteer at St. Mary's Food bank on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 9:45 to noon. No prior experience necessary as we give "on the job training."

January dates are January 6 and 20.

The needs are great.

Contact Jo or Flynn Fuller for further information at joflynnnomad@yahoo.com



**IN THESE TIMES OF NEED,
EVERY BIT HELPS.
HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO DONATE:**

- ◇ Non-perishable food items the first and second Sundays of the month for St. Mary's Food Bank.
- ◇ Cases of water the first and second Sundays of the month for the hydration station at A New Leaf.
- ◇ Toilet paper rolls for the HEMP Foundation
- ◇ Plastic lids that have been washed for a project in Mexico .
- ◇ Change for the Noisy Offering where the children collect money and choose the mission they will support
- ◇ Appropriate adult and children's books for our Little Free Library (wooden book house in front)

EVE'S COOKERS

The Cookers were excited to put together 46 casseroles for Eve's Place in December.

Casseroles and brownies were not delivered in December due to Eve's Place being closed Dec 22 - Jan 5.

Our Brownie Angels bake at home providing dozens of brownies each month. We would love to have YOU join us in this 20+ year old Ministry that helps abused persons. If you are interested in helping, or have questions, please contact Ann Haggerty.

Financial help is also appreciated. Put Eve's cookers in the memo.

Year-to Date 2025	
Brownies	542 doz.
Casseroles	358

KNIT WITS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Knit Wits meet on the **first Thursday** of each month, although this month we are meeting **January 8**, from 1 - 3 pm to create prayer shawls for our community. The more shawls we make, the more we can donate.

Remember: If you don't know how, *we will teach you!*

Please consider joining us! We would love to see you! For more information or if you'd like to get started sooner, contact Deanna Leon.

If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, feel free to take one from the worship space to give them.





Children's Ministries

The theme of this year's Countdown to Christmas was "Cozy Pajama Party." Both children and adults were encouraged to wear their Christmas pjs. Activities included enjoying a "comfort food" dinner of macaroni and cheese and/or hot dogs, making a variety of Christmas ornaments and watching classic animated Christmas movies. You can check out our ornaments on the children's Christmas tree on the right side of the chancel. It was so much fun, we decided to do it again next year!



After bringing in the New Year at New Song, the youth are looking forward to many events in 2026. On January 24 we will be packing food for Feed My Starving Children followed by a trip to Organ Stop Pizza for dinner. We will not meet on January 25.

It's Their Mission starts planning meetings in February. Soon we will know where we will go! Winter Camp is February 27 - March 1 at Camp Mingus, and we may get a group to go and enjoy themselves

And we continue to meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month.



Adult Education

There are several opportunities at New Song for adults to learn more about our faith.

- ♦ **Women's Bible Study** meets **Wednesdays at 9:00 am and again at 10:30 am.** We will begin a new study on January 7 using *The Book of Daniel, a Rose Visual Bible Study*. Be prepared to discuss the first chapter. If you have questions, ask either Sally Hamill or Ann Haggerty.
- ♦ **The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** meets on **Friday morning at 8am** in the dining room at Fellowship Square (right next to New Song). We have a delicious breakfast buffet for only \$5 and lots of good Fellowship. Approximately 8:45 am we walk a short distance to the Catalina Room for the study. We are done between 10:00 and 10:30 am.
- ♦ **Adult Sunday School:** In January, we will continue to study passages in the book of John. Midway through January, we will discuss various verses in 1 Thessalonians. Our curriculum comes from Cokesbury Publications which includes reading, discussing, praying and applications. 9:00 am to 10:00 am. Down the hallway, last room on the right. Contact Jo or Flynn at joflynnnomad@yahoo.com with any questions.

United Women of Faith



On Saturday, December 13, New Song Women of Faith held their annual Christmas Tea. This year's theme was "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and it featured décor in shades of white, silver and gold, as well as music by Vince Gill and Susan Boyle on the theme of peace. We all enjoyed the inspirational music, the festive ambiance, and the chance to relax and have fellowship with one another. A HUGE thank you to the many volunteers who planned, baked, set up the room, decorated, shopped, wrapped baskets for the give away, served the tea and goodies and reset the church for worship on Sunday.

We are in the process of planning the annual Women of Faith Sunday, which will be held on Sunday, January 25. It will feature inspirational messages, including a sermon by Pastor Kathleen Puntar, installation of officers of the UWF, and a new hymn that exemplifies the many facets and roles of women of faith.



Announcements

FARMER'S MARKET

The Farmer's Market that meets at New Song is on hiatus and regrouping. Watch the blast and bulletin for updates to when their Grand Reopening will occur.

CARD MAKING MINISTRY

The Dabblers make cards for our Card Ministry and for sale. They make the cards at home on their own schedule. For more information, contact Eileen Johnson .

SINGLE'S GROUP

A new singles group for men and women may be getting started soon. It can be as much or as little as the members want. If you are interested, please contact Jacque Laats at jlaats01@gmail.com

BOOK BUDDIES

We will be discussing *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot on **Monday, January 26** at 1:00 pm at church. We welcome all readers, women and men. Our list for 2026 will be in the February 2026 NOTES. We are always open to new reads.

FOREVER FRIENDS

Forever Friends will meet at noon on **Thursday, January 8.** Bring a salad for a salad potluck as well as your own beverage and table setting. Games after lunch. Bring a favorite game if you like.
Questions: contact Myrna Bishop.

COLORING GROUP

The Meet, Greet and Color Group will meet on the fourth Thursday of the month from 1:00 pm to 3 pm at New Song. Everyone is invited! This is a great opportunity to meet and greet new people.
Call Janet Rummel with any questions.

OUR VISION ...

is to become a great church that builds the kingdom of God by making disciples of Jesus Christ and by making a difference in the world.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AGES

We offer many different ways to serve while having fellowship with other New Song members and friends:

Animals 4 God, Book Buddies, Care & Nurture, Caregiver Support, Celebration Choir, Children's Ministry, Dabblers, Dinners for 8, Eve's Cookers, Forever Friends, Handbells, Hospitality Team, Knit Wits, Ladies Hand and Foot cards, Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, Missions, Needlers, New Member Classes, Praise Team, Prayer Force, Preschool Ministry, Reach Team, Stephen Ministries, Sunday School (for children, youth and adults), UWF (United Women in Faith), Women's Bible Study, Youth Ministry and more.

Check the calendar each month for schedule information and additional opportunities.

REMINDER

The office email address is
newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com.
The office phone number is **623-584-9418** or
623-584-9656.

If you send something to church or have your offering sent by your bank, please use this address:

New Song United Methodist Church
16303 West Bell Road, Door #5
Surprise, AZ 85374

ARE YOU RECEIVING THE BLAST?

If you are not receiving the weekly Blast, first check your spam mail folder. If you cannot find it there, then sign the Blast Sign-up Sheet at the Information Center. Once you have been added, you should receive the weekly Blast on Thursdays and the monthly newsletter on the last Friday of the month. If you have any questions, contact the office at newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com or 623-584-9418.

LOST YOUR NAME BADGE/ NEVER HAD ONE?

Get a new name tag or badge by signing up on the list at the Information Center. Name badges will be posted on the Information Center once we receive them. The cost is \$8.50. You can put a check in the offering basket. Put **Name Tag** in the memo line. Or pay at the church office.

PRAY FOR IN JANUARY

Ajo Federated, Ajo
Arizona Korean UMF, Peoria
Calvary UMC, Phoenix

MINISTERS OF NEW SONG

**The ministers of New Song
are its members.**

The staff members who assist them are:

Pastor: Rev. Misty Howick

Pastoral Assistant: Chaplain Kathy Norris

Director of Music: Jeffrey Conger

Interim Sunday School

Leader: Rhonda Easa

Interim Office Manager: Joanne Croft

Treasurer: Amy Tarleton

Financial Secretary: Scott South

Accompanist: Alex Lunardi

Facilities Manager: Nicolas Hermans

2025

01/01 Larry Wiggs
 01/10 Jean Jack
 01/31 Marlene Shirley
 02/04 Guenther Kruse
 02/10 Richard Kosier
 03/03 Charles DeWall
 03/05 Tom Olsen
 03/08 Barbara Shumate
 03/11 S. Joan Johnson
 04/04 Carol Hanes
 04/28 Vivian Claussen
 05/03 Dr. Millard Kimery
 05/05 Elizabeth Flores
 06/13 Walter Hopkins

IN LOVING MEMORY



06/18 Ione Bartells
 06/27 Gary Kelley
 07/08 Terry Locke
 07/09 LeRoy Messenger
 07/16 Jerome K. Johnson
 08/08 Phyllis Russell
 08/15 Aileah Carlson
 08/17 Shane Hill
 08/26 Helen Park
 09/01 Beth Brashers
 10/13 Ken Kraft
 10/28 Kelly Quinn
 10/28 Donna Doede
 12/15 Norma Lawson



OUR MILITARY

A1C Morgan Ailsieger, ANG
 TSgt Daryl Gladstein, ANG
 Spec Matthew Farris, US Army
 SSgt Kathryn Jones, USAF
 WO1 Wesley Meadows, US Army
 LCDR Brent Pavel, US Navy

E-5 Nicholas Rinker, US Navy
 TSgt Malika Sengsavath, ANG
 SSgt Kyler Sengsavath, Air Force
 Cpl Trayton Stewart, Marines
 E-3 Echo Smith, US Navy

Let us always bear in mind that
 freedom is not free.



1/03 Kendra Hoffman
 1/03 Justin Ferguson
 1/04 Peggy Pepper
 1/05 John Papendorf
 1/08 Stephanie Soon
 1/08 Cynthia Czech
 1/14 Faye West
 1/16 Sheryl Messenger

1/21 Judie Watanabe
 1/22 Julie Kruk
 1/23 Alex Lunardi
 1/24 Jacque Laats
 1/26 Sidney Thomas
 1/28 Elmer Simmons
 1/28 Kaylyn Pirc
 1/29 Lillianna Wyrick



1/15 Richard & Margaret Rinker
 1/22 David & Kendra Hoffman



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Blue = Offsite Activities				1 OFFICE CLOSED Youth Lock-In until noon	2	3
4 Communion 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Communion, PreK Sunday School 11:45 Handbells 12:00 pm Worship	5 9 am UWF Leaders 10:15am Prayer Force	6 9:45 am <i>Serve at St. Mary's</i> 1 pm Staff Meeting 4 pm Trustees	7 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 1pm <i>Grief Group</i> 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team	8 10 am Children's Ministry 12pm Forever Friends 1 pm Knit Wits	9 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 1 pm SPRC	10 10 am UWF Meeting
11 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbell, 11:45 Youth	12 10:15am Prayer Force 10:30 <i>Caregiver Support</i>	13 1 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm A4G 6 pm A4G Reading	14 9 & 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 1pm <i>Grief Group</i> 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise	15 10 am Stephen Ministry 1 pm Coloring Group	16 8am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 1pm - Ladies Hand & Foot	17
18 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 Handbells	19 OFFICE CLOSED 10:15am Prayer Force	20 9:45 am <i>Serve at St. Mary's</i> 1 pm Staff Meeting 4 pm Finance	21 9 & 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 1pm Missions 1pm <i>Grief Group</i> 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise	22	23 8am Men's B'fast and Bible Study	24 8 am Eve's Cookers 4:30 Youth Feed My Starving Children
25 9am Adult SS 10:30am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 Handbells	26 10:15am Prayer Force 10:30 <i>Caregiver Support</i> 1 pm Book Buddies	27 10 am Church Council	28 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 1pm <i>Grief Group</i> 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise	29	30 8am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 10 am Pew Buddies	31

January 2026 Newsletter



Church Office:

Monday thru Friday 9:00am - 2:30 pm

Phone: 623-584-9418 or 623-584-9656

Newsletter Editor: Joanne Croft at newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com.

Please send all February newsletter articles by January 10th.

If you have items for the Blast and/or for the bulletin,
please submit them by Tuesday each week.

New Song Church
16303 West Bell Road, DOOR 5
Surprise, AZ 85374

PLACE
STAMP
HERE