



GILBERT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WHERE DID WE COME FROM??

In 1982, the Presbytery of Grand Canyon committed to the development of a new Presbyterian church in Gilbert, AZ. The current five-acre property of Gilbert Presbyterian Church (GPC) was purchased in 1982, and ground was broken in 1987, after several years of planning and fund-raising. The first worship service in the current building was held in April 1988. In 2000, a second building was erected to provide a venue for education, nursery care, and fellowship activities; the building was officially dedicated as The Palmer Center, in honor of Pastor Terry Palmer when he retired in 2019, after a long term of service.

WHO ARE WE??

The original church commissioned 112 charter members in 1984. Our membership numbers have risen and fallen since that time, and we currently have 196 members. Our members span all ages, and we pride ourselves on our inclusiveness.

Our church has had 4 permanent pastors, and we are currently searching for a new pastor, following the recent retirement of Dr. Terry Palmer, who served our church for 17 years.

In the Presbyterian tradition, GPC has two boards of elected officials. The board of deacons is composed of 12 members. Deacons are responsible for the care and nurture function of our church, and each is assigned responsibility for a "flock" of 8-10 families. The board of elders is also composed of 12 members. Elders are responsible for overall management of various church functions, including worship, Christian education, finance, personnel, buildings and grounds, evangelism, mission, and stewardship; committees have been established to accomplish each of these tasks, and additional task forces are created on an ad-hoc basis such as technology team, property management, resources, etc.

We are a small, but mighty, church!!

WHAT DO WE DO??

Gilbert Presbyterian has weekly worship services on Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM. Worship services are also livestreamed on YouTube, Facebook, and GPC's website. Music is a meaningful part of worship, and our music ministry team oversees all aspects of music in worship, including the chancel choir, children's choir, and handbell choir.





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ALL ARE WELCOME!!

New member's classes are held when individuals who have visited the church are interested in learning more about the GPC and about the Presbyterian faith and are considering joining. In light of Covid-19, these classes can be held either virtually or in a small group socially distanced with the Pastor.

Temporarily on hold due to Covid-19:

Christian Education classes for all ages are held at 11:00 AM. There are two different classes for adults (one a more traditional Bible study format, and the second a video-based class), as well as a class for junior/senior high school aged youth. Christian Education classes for younger children are held immediately following the children's message portion of the worship service. Newly renovated nursery and Pre-K rooms are available for our smallest of members through age 5.

HELPING OTHERS!!

Mission activities are important to GPC. We prepare lunches for East Valley Mens' Center, assemble nutrition packs for Feed My Starving Children, prepare and serve dinner at the UMOM homeless shelter, contribute to the food pantry at Guadalupe Presbyterian Church, launder used clothing for the Heavenly Threads program, and provide gifts for needy children with the "Christmas Angel" tree.

Gilbert Presbyterian reaches out to our larger community by providing meeting space for support groups for those overcoming addictions, serving as a polling place for local elections, hosting blood drives several times a year, and making space available for homeowner association meetings.

We are part of a larger Presbyterian community, as part of the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, which includes 55 churches throughout Arizona. We also work with nearby Presbyterian churches to host a summer day camp program for children.

WHERE ARE WE GOING??

In our search for a new pastor, we have an opportunity to reflect on our focus as a faith community. We are in the process of identifying our priorities for the future, and our recently-elected Pastor Nominating Committee is working diligently to help us in finding the pastor who will be able to help lead us to a bright future. We welcome you to join us on our journey!!



KIDS ARE WELCOME

God put the wiggle in children, so do not feel the need to suppress it in God's house.

Look for our activity bags or children's bulletins near the entrance.

You might want to sit towards the front, where your children can see and hear better.

Feel free to quietly explain what is happening. Sing, pray, and participate - your child will follow.

If you need to leave the service, that's okay! Do come back, though. We don't mind.

We believe that the way we welcome children directly affects the way they respond to the church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in God's house.

To our members: The presence of children is a gift to the church and a reminder that we are growing! Please welcome the children as Jesus did. Find ways and words to encourage the parents.

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