

New Song Notes

April 2026
Issue 4

Don't look away.

We are in the middle of a war. Before you throw your hands up and tell me, “Pastor Misty, I don’t want to hear about Iran or Israel, or Palestine or Syria anymore ... “I don’t want to hear about Guatemala or Venezuela or President Trump or ICE or any of it,” know that I am right there with you. I don’t want to hear about those things or talk about those things anymore either.

But not talking about them won’t make them go away. And I think one of the reasons why we get so down when we hear or read about these events is that we feel powerless in making things better.

My husband sent me a short video on the topic of achieving goals. A woman on the video was commenting on the fact that so many people have excuses for not moving forward in their goals. She said, “I hear people say they would go vegan if it wasn’t for bacon. And I say, why not go vegan plus bacon?”

While that comment may have made you shake your head or laugh, I want you to seriously think about what she was proposing. Isn’t going “vegan plus bacon” just taking a step closer to your goals and ideals? I have been trying to set micro goals for myself. A micro goal is a very small goal that you know you can achieve and feel good about. For example, maybe you set the goal to floss one tooth every night. That's it. Can you do that? Great! Maybe you floss more than one tooth, because, why not? However, as long as you floss one tooth a night, then you are a success! Do not let perfection get in the way of the good. Another comment from that video on achieving goals: “Half-assing something is better than no-assing something.”

I mention the idea of setting reasonable goals and making some progress, even if it isn’t perfect, because we need to learn to be easy on ourselves. We cannot win every battle set before us. We cannot be the perfect spouse, child, parent, friend and if we try we will fail. If we don’t try, because we know we will fail, then we have already failed. It is better to make some progress than none.

Let’s draw closer to one another. The wars we are in the middle of are more than those mentioned above. We fight with staying positive in toxic homes or relationships. We fight with ourselves and others over our values and rights. Let’s not turn our heads away from the news, but lets also look to doing small acts of kindness, making lives here better, showing kindness to people who don’t expect

(cont. on pg 2)



Contact Us

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

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New Song Surprise ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))



New Song UMC Surprise AZ



New Song
United Methodist Church

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(Pastor's Message - cont. from pg 1)

it and can't pay us back. It is in these ways that we show God's power.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others?."

- Matthew 5:43-47

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

- Matthew 17:20

Pastor Misty Howick



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 2, 7 pm - Maundy Thursday when we remember Jesus celebrating the Passover with his friends at his final meal.

Friday, April 3, 7 pm - Good Friday service where we remember Jesus' journey to the cross and his death as we sing Taizé choruses.

Sunday, April 5, 6 am - Sunrise Easter service as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection with cries of "He is risen!" and remember with communion.

Sunday, April 5, 10:30 am - Easter service as we continue to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with cantata and communion. Easter Egg Hunt for children and Scavenger Hunt for youth to follow the service.

APRIL 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.

VISITING A NEW LEAF

On February 27, a small group from New Song visited the New Leaf Housing Assistance in Surprise, AZ. We were warmly greeted by Ashley Hinds who gave us an enthusiastic talk about the work of New Leaf. The organization helps survivors escape domestic violence, overcome homelessness, give support services, and improve their finances. New Leaf staff liaison with many other organizations within this area.

The staff is most grateful for our donations of cases of water for their water rehydration center as temperatures rise.

Ashley (480-364-7863) has a gift for using volunteers in almost any way possible, such as reading to children. In addition, New Leaf needs casseroles to feed seven families since they have no cook on weekends and are open to both homemade and bought casseroles. If you have time and effort to give, consider helping at A New Leaf!



Did you know that the children voted to have the noisy offering for the first quarter of the year go to Spencer's place?

As of printing, \$396.40 has been donated so far. Thank you!

The Ten Commandments to Help with the Hard of Hearing

1. Thou shalt not speak from another room.
2. Thou shalt not speak with your back toward the person with a hearing problem (or their back toward you.)
3. Thou shalt not start speaking and walk away.
4. Thou shalt not start speaking and turn away from the person with a hearing problem.
5. Thou shalt not speak in competition with something else (turn off the water, turn down the radio, etc).
6. Thou shalt get the attention of the person with the hearing problem (do not start speaking while they are reading or concentrating on TV).
7. Thou shalt try to speak face to face at all times.
8. Thou shalt try to remove obstructions while speaking (your hand from your face, etc.)
9. Thou shalt try to speak distinctly.
10. Thou shalt try to be patient.

Originally written by John Leddo, Director of Audiology
at the Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Eastern Fairfield County, CT.



Animals 4 God



HAPPY EASTER from Animals 4 God!

When I watch our dog Zoey chasing her tail, I sometimes wonder if she’s “normal.” Puppies often chase their tails, but Zoey just turned eight—about 56 in human years—so you would think she’d have outgrown it by now. Tail-chasing can be similar to babies grabbing their toes as they explore their bodies. In Zoey’s case, I think it’s simply a way to burn off extra energy. Since she can easily be distracted and stop, it doesn’t appear to be a problem behavior.



While researching this, I discovered several other behaviors that remind us our dogs are often perfectly normal:

Reverse Sneezing – A loud snorting sound where a dog stiffens, stretches out its neck, and may appear wide-eyed. Episodes can last up to a minute and may be triggered by leash pulling, allergies, or eating or drinking too quickly. It’s usually harmless. Gently massaging your dog’s neck can often help stop it.

Eating Grass – Many dogs eat grass, sticks, or even dirt occasionally. While this is common, frequent or excessive eating could indicate stomach upset or anemia. Zoey sometimes eats gravel when her stomach is upset. If the behavior becomes frequent, it’s wise to call your veterinarian.

Noise Phobia – Some dogs fear loud noises like sirens, thunderstorms, or fireworks. Zoey is terrified of fireworks. Our veterinarian suggested calming treats and comforting her, which helps sometimes. This year I plan to try playing music loudly so the fireworks seem less intense. You might also try playing with your dog to help them associate the noise with something positive.

While some behaviors may require a veterinarian’s help if they become excessive, many are simply part of being a dog.

Wouldn’t it be nice if we humans were that normal too?



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



The Vial Of Life by Sun Health Wellness

The Vial of Life is a free Sun Health program that gives you fast access to critical patient information when seconds count. Residents receive a labeled pill bottle with key medical details, stored in the refrigerator door for easy emergency access.

The Vial of Life Includes: A page that you fill out, and update annually which includes:

- Current medical conditions and current medications and dosage instructions
- Allergies and past surgeries
- Primary and specialist physicians
- Hospital preference
- Health insurance provider
- Emergency contacts (including pets)

Why It Matters:

The Vial of Life saves precious minutes in an emergency, providing immediate, accurate health details, reducing delays in care, and improving safety for patients unable to speak for themselves.

What to Look For:

Put the sticker provided either on the front window of your home, or on the outside of your refrigerator. Store the Vial inside the refrigerator door. The Surprise Fire-Medical also keeps some of the Vials of Life resources at the Fire-Medical Administration lobby desk. A Pet Finder window sticker that alerts first responders to the pets in your home is also available at the Fire-Medical front desk.

It is good to know that the City of Surprise First Responders are aware of this program to get this information as quickly as possible. This program is made available by Sun Health Foundation donors, in partnership with Banner Boswell and Banner Del E. Webb medical centers.

Chaplain Kathy has a supply of these Vials in the church office for those who would like to have this resource. Please fill in the sign-up sheet near the box of Vials so that she knows who has decided to participate in this program. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Feel free to contact Chaplain Kathy Norris with any questions.

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



Prayer Force meets Mondays at 10:15 am in the sanctuary to pray for the needs of individuals, our church and the world.



Missions and Outreach



**As of February 28,
YOU have donated
\$ 1,145
to Missions in 2026.**

LOOKING FOR A SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?

Volunteer with other members of New Song at St. Mary's Food Bank the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 8:45 until noon. We will continue to work through the summer and can use your help!

EVE'S COOKERS

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

In March, 42 casseroles and 57 dozen brownies were delivered, while in February, 47 casseroles and 52 dozen brownies were taken down. These casseroles and brownies are shared with families experiencing abuse, the adults and children that Eve's Place helps.

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 2026

Brownies 222 doz.

Casseroles 182

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.
- ◇ 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).

KNIT WITS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Knit Wits meet on the **first Thursday** of each month, **April 2**, from **1 - 3 pm** to create prayer shawls for our community. We recently sent several to a kidney dialysis center. 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

New Song is trying something new! Our Vacation Bible School this year is New Song Summer Camp. It will be a week-long camp including many activities and projects. Running from June 22-26, we will be meeting from 9 am – 4 pm with an hour of child care available an hour before and after. (8am-9am and 4pm-5pm) There will be many volunteer opportunities for this to happen. Don't worry, we won't ask you to be here all day every day. Instead we are hoping for many volunteers so everyone can have shorter shifts or fewer days.

Areas that need volunteers include check in/out, art, sustainability/gardening, music, compassion camp, recreation fun, food helpers, gophers, shepherd to stay with the class and help them get to their classes, administration and others.

If we do not have enough volunteers, or the new space is not completed, we will not offer any VBS/New Song Summer Camp opportunities this summer, so let us know if you are interested by April 30 by contacting the office at 623-584-9418 or emailing newsong.surpriseaz@gmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

July 11-18, the youth will join It's Their Mission and go to Altadena, CA to help rebuild houses destroyed by last year's wildfires. We will be working again with Hope Crisis Response Network.

New Song is hosting the next ITM planning meeting on April 19. We raise money for the trip by selling "stock" so watch for us on the patio soon.

We continue to meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month after church for a meal, devotion, lesson and/or a service project.



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 began a new study in March using *The Twelve Disciples, a Rose Visual Bible Study*. If you have questions, ask either Sally Hamill or Ann Haggerty.
- ◆ **The Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** meets on **Friday mornings 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:** We offer a series of lessons in two units during Lent and the weeks following. These lessons encourage us to consider what we need to let go of and what we need to take on as followers of Jesus. 9:00 am to 10:00 am, down the church hallway, last room on the right. Contact Jo or Flynn fuller at joflynnnomad@yahoo.com with any questions.



Announcements

MARRIAGE FELLOWSHIP

Whether newly married or getting ready to celebrate multiple decades together, you are invited to join the Marriage Fellowship. Our next meeting is **Sunday, April 12 at 4 pm** at the Hoffman's House.

FOREVER FRIENDS

Want to get out of the house? Meet with friendly people? Come to Forever Friends at noon on **Thursday, April 9**. Bring your lunch as well as your own beverage and table setting. Games after lunch. Bring a favorite game if you like. Questions: contact Myrna Bishop.

MEET AND GREET

The Meet and Greet Group meets on the third Thursday of the month for fellowship 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.

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

There are many ways to do this! Check out the Prayer bulletin board by the double doors and add your response. Leave a note on the Congregational Engagement doors and read what others wrote. Wear your nametag.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

United Women in Faith will have their April meeting on **Saturday, April 11 at 10 am**. Come see all we can accomplish together!

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

Are you a caregiver? Would you like the opportunity to share with others who are also caregivers? If so, join us at the Caregiver Support Group! We meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 10:30 am at Starbucks on Grand and Reems in Surprise. Look for Pam McNeal Laue and Sabine Kruse (who will be wearing their name tags) and introduce yourself when you arrive. If you have questions, please contact Pam Laue or Sabine Kruse.

CARD MAKING MINISTRY

People 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 .

BOOK BUDDIES

We will be discussing *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict on **Monday, April 27 at 1:00 pm** at church. We welcome all readers.

Upcoming books include:

- 5/25 *The Ones We Wait For* by Michael V. Ivahov
- 6/22 *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan
- 7/27 *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Ana Johnston

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 for service and fellowship with other New Song members and friends: Animals 4 God, Book Buddies, Card Making, Care & Nurture, Caregiver Support, Celebration Choir, Children's Ministry, Dinners for 8, Eve's Cookers, Forever Friends, Handbells, Hospitality Team, Knit Wits, Ladies Hand and Foot cards, Marriage Fellowship, 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.

PRAY FOR IN APRIL

Each month we are encouraged to pray for different churches in our district.

In April, please pray for:

Mountain View UMC, Cottonwood, AZ
Fort Yuma UMC, Winterhaven, CA
Native American Parish UMF, Phoenix, AZ

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.

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.

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**

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

Sunday School Supervisor: Rhonda Easa

Nursery Coordinator: Janel Soffa

Office Manager: Joanne Croft

Office Assistant: Leslie Oredson

Treasurer: Amy Tarleton

Financial Secretary: Scott South

Marketing & Web Manager: Amy Tarleton

Accompanist: Alex Lunardi

Facilities Manager: Nicolas Hermans

IN LOVING MEMORY

2025 04/04 Carol Hanes
 04/28 Vivian Claussen
 05/03 Dr. Millard Kimery
 05/05 Elizabeth Flores
 06/13 Walter Hopkins
 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
 12/27 Juanita Howard
 12/27 Joanne Wilson
 12/30 Terri Nekvinda
2026 01/03 Raymond Drake
 03/13 Thelma Rush
 03/13 Darlene McSparran



OUR MILITARY



A1C Morgan Ailsieger, 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.



4/1 Ron Conwell
 4/2 Madonna Graham Thomas
 4/4 Chad McQueary
 4/5 Phil Henry
 4/11 Steve Knight
 4/11 Robin Carbone
 4/14 Sharon Marchant
 4/15 Pat Howard
 4/17 Markita South
 4/21 Melinda Corey
 4/23 P.J. Colebrook
 4/24 Becky Parmar
 4/27 Rhonda Easa



4/11 Frank & Val Castle
 4/30 Shannon & Christian Sundbye



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 1pm Grief Group 6 pm Choir	2 10 am Hospitality 1 pm Knit Wits 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 10:30 am Altar Guild 7 pm Good Friday	4 10 am Altar Guild 1 pm Choir Rehearsal
5 He is risen! 6 am Worship 9 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, communion, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Egg Hunt	6 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am UWF Leaders 10:15am Prayer Force 6 pm Boy Scouts	7 9:45 am Serve at St. Mary's 4 pm Trustees	8 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Choir	9 10 am Children's Ministry 12 pm Forever Friends	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study	11 10 am UWF Meeting
12 9am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbells 11:45 am Youth 12:15 pm Worship Meeting 4 pm Marriage Fellowship	13 10:15 am Prayer Force 10:30 am Caregiver Support 6 pm Boy Scouts	14 1 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Animals 4 God Meet, Read	15 9 & 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Choir	16 9:30 am Stephen Ministries 1 pm Coloring Group	17 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study	18 8 am Eve's Cookers
19 9 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 2pm It's Their Mission @ New Song	20 10:15 am Prayer Force 6 pm Boy Scouts	21 9:45 am Serve at St. Mary's 1 pm Staff Meeting 4 pm Finance	22 9 & 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 1pm Missions 6 pm Choir	23	24 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 10 am Pew Buddies	25
26 9 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbells 11:45 am Youth 12:00 New Member Class	27 10:15 am Prayer Force 10:30 am Caregiver Support 1 pm Book Buddies	28 10 am Church Council	29 9 & 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 6 pm Choir	30		Blue = Offsite Activities

April 2026 Newsletter



He is risen!



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 May newsletter articles by April 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