



New Song Notes

March 2026
Issue 3

When you have to make the choice... what will it be?



I was reading an article by The Week Junior, a news subscription that we get for our children. A headline caught my eye. “A first for Olympics opening ceremony.” Many of you watched a portion of the Winter Olympics which was hosted in Italy. What was the “first”? The opening ceremonies took place at multiple venues. The title of the opening ceremonies was “Armonia,” meaning Harmony. It represented the theme between the city and country landscapes as well as between all the countries who were coming to compete. The opening ceremonies included a torch lighting in both Milan, and Cortina d’Ampezzo. There were four parades of athletes happening simultaneously. “Armonia is not just a theme- it is our promise to the world” said Giovanni Malgado, an official of the 2026 winter games. We can look forward to the paralympic games also being hosted in Italy from March 6th-15th, with an Opening Ceremony on March 6th in Verona.

Why is this important? For me, this act of togetherness at the start of some serious international competition reminds us what is important. It is not important who wins, it matters that we recognize the hard work and giftedness of the athletes. It matters that we get to know people with similar interests across geographical and political boundaries. It matters that we begin to value one another.

Earlier this year my daughter competed at a regional volleyball tournament. At the grounds of the tournament, there were other sports competing as well. There were baseball and softball and beach volleyball tournaments. On the 2nd day, we heard that there was a fight at the baseball fields. Sure enough, it made the news. Hundreds of players and fans were broken up by police and asked to leave the facility. Some people who were interviewed said they were not surprised this happened, and it was only a matter of time. (abc15.com/news/region-southeast-valley/mesa/large-fight-breaks-out-at-youth-sports-tournament-at-arizona-athletic-grounds)

This fight was an example of how people get when they are set up against one another, either in sport or because of something else. We value being right, being better. Our worth is more than others. But it doesn’t have to be that way.

I think Jesus knew how controversial he was going to be. He says in Luke 12:51, “Do you think that I

(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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have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!" I believe this is not because Jesus wanted to create division, but that division naturally happens when people are faced with new information, new thoughts, new rules and new priorities. Jesus also said in the Beattitudes, (Matthew 5:1-11) "blessed are the peacemakers, because they will be children of God." I think Jesus was trying to lift up peacemaking as a new way of living, a glimpse of the Kingdom of God on earth.

We have choices. We can choose to find something in common with one another. We can choose to compete in a friendly way, and value one another whether we win or lose. We can choose to play fair. We can choose to come together despite differences to love one another and enjoy life together. We can choose negotiation over violence and threat. When we choose these things, we create pockets of God's reign, like Jesus teaches from the Beatitudes.

So, when you have to make the choice, what will it be?

May you have a blessed March!

Pastor Misty Howick

Great Ideas Discussion Group

Are you interested in getting together with a small discussion group to contemplate different intellectual ideas and concepts?

Examples of ideas we may discuss include:

- ◇ Euclidean space, Byzantine space and Giotto's space: What are they and what does Giotto infusing Euclidean space into art say about Christian religion and the secular society?
- ◇ Is there a soul/life-force? If so, how is it manifested? What does that say about the concept of a next life?
- ◇ What are the "four acts" someone needs to do, to guarantee they will not be poor in the United States? What are the reasons someone does not do them?

Contact Allen Reamer (areamer@mindspring.com) for more information.

MARCH 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.



Lenten Services

Lent is a season of preparation when Christians remember Jesus' sacrifice. It is a time of reflection - a quiet time for listening to God. You are invited to "observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word." (*Book of Worship, p. 322*)

We are continuing our study of the Life of Jesus in 100 Days through Lent. At the end of March we enter Holy Week and observe the following special services:

Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 29 at 10:30 am begins with a procession of palms, wonderful singing, and remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We are also reminded of the rest of Holy Week, including Jesus' journey to the cross.

Maundy Thursday, April 2 is where we journey to the upper room and remember the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. This is where the sacrament of communion originates.

Good Friday, April 3 is when we remember Jesus' death. This is a quiet service, and will include Taize music.

Lent ends with Easter! Our Easter Celebrations will be **Sunday, April 5 at 6 am** and **Sunday, April 5 at 10:30 am** which will feature an Easter cantata. There will be an egg hunt for children and a geocache type search for youth after the 10:30 service on Easter.



Join us to learn about the Life of Jesus in 100 Days

In our time between Christmas and Easter, New Song is focusing on the life of Jesus. Come and walk with us in March as we explore what Jesus taught and why and explore his relationships to those around him.

The study includes Sunday sermons and daily devotions. You may pick up the devotions at church.

Future topics include looking at the meaning of Holy Week, Jesus' resurrection, and the time after the resurrection that Jesus spent with his disciples.



**Easter Egg hunt
after the 10:30
service on
Easter Sunday**

Farmers Market
at New Song
Saturdays
3 pm - 7 pm
Parking Lot
by Events4All





Animals 4 God



Happy St. Patrick's Day from **Animals 4 God!** We know that God works in mysterious ways, and this story is a simple yet powerful reminder of that truth.

A farmer had a litter of puppies to sell and posted a sign at the edge of his yard. As he finished, a young boy approached and asked if he could buy one. The farmer explained that the puppies were expensive because they came from fine parents. The boy admitted he did not have much money, but offered the thirty-nine cents in his pocket and asked if he could at least look.

The farmer agreed and called the mother dog, Dolly, who emerged with four healthy puppies. As the boy watched, he noticed a fifth puppy slowly struggling out of the doghouse. It was smaller than the others, with underdeveloped front legs, and could not keep up. The boy immediately said that was the puppy he wanted.

The farmer gently explained that the puppy would never be able to run and play like the others. The boy then rolled up his pant leg, revealing a brace and special shoe. He explained that he did not run very well either, and that the puppy would need someone who understood.

With tears in his eyes, the farmer picked up the puppy and placed it in the boy's arms. When the boy asked the price, the farmer replied, "There is no charge for love."

God brought the boy and the puppy together through compassion and understanding. He works through all of us—if we allow Him to do so.



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



We are hosting a guest speaker from the Alzheimer’s Association

Jolene DiBrango will be at New Song on March 20 and 27 from 10 am until 12:30 to present “Empowering Caregivers.” This two part presentation offers tools and insights on dementia care, including communication, behavior, independence and resources. She will also speak to building a foundation of caregiving, supporting independence, communicating effectively, responding to dementia related behaviors and exploring care and support services.

This is a two part, free presentation and open to the public. Each session will have its own topics, so people are encouraged to attend both days. It is meant not only for people who are caregivers for people with alzheimers or dementia, but for anyone who might interact with someone who does. It is hoped that the Caregiver Support Group, Stephen Ministers, Care Council and church leaders will attend for tools and insights that may be used in their areas of support.

In order to have enough materials for all who want to attend, please look for a sign-up sheet in the information station, or call the church office to RSVP. Bring a guest, and sign them up as well!

Jolene DiBrango

from the Alzheimer’s Association

March 20 & 27 from 10 am - 12:30 pm

at New Song

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



Easter Food Boxes

It’s that time of year again!

Our annual Easter Food Box/Easter Basket collection will take place on Sunday March 29.

All non-perishable food collected in March will go towards our Easter Food Boxes. If you are unsure what to collect, look for the Lenten calendar for ideas. We also collect toilet paper, tissues, and other household items for our local families in need. And we can always use gift cards to local grocery stores

In addition to the usual non-perishable food and grocery store gift cards, we will be collecting items suitable for Easter baskets for children and youth, such as candy and small gift items.

On Monday, March 30, we will be meeting at 9:30 am to sort and distribute the boxes and baskets to needy families in the Dysart Unified School district,. We need sorters and drivers. Come serve the community!

This is an important mission in the life of our church, and any help or donation that you can provide will be greatly appreciated.



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 January 31 YOU
have donated
\$275
to Missions in 2026.**

MISSIONS UPDATES:

The congregation is invited to tour the facilities of the Sunshine Angels and the Sunshine Residential homes on **March 16 at 1 pm**. Further details will be in the March blasts.

Service days to work at St. Mary's Food Bank are **March 3 and 17 from 9:45 am - noon**. Contact Fullers if you are new to volunteer at joflynnnomad@yahoo.com

Food is being collected **every Sunday in March** for the Easter Food boxes. This is in lieu of donating to St. Mary's Food Bank. Gift cards are welcomed as well. The food boxes will be prepared and delivered on **Monday, March 30 at 9:30 am**.



**IN THESE TIMES OF NEED,
EVERY BIT HELPS.**

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO DONATE:

- ◇ Non-perishable food items throughout March for our Easter baskets for families in need.
- ◇ 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).

EVE'S COOKERS

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

Casseroles and brownies were delivered in February after the newsletter went to print. Look for an update in April's newsletter

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	113 doz.
Casseroles	93

KNIT WITS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Knit Wits meet on the **first Thursday** of each month, **March 5**, 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.





Marriage Fellowship

New Song has started a ministry for married couples. We meet once each month in people's homes to share ideas, reflect on what is working in our relationships, consider other positive aspects of each other, and eat a meal. We range from being married for years to newly engaged.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 15, at 4 pm at the South's house.

Couples are welcome to join. Any questions? Contact Kendra Hoffman

YOUTH MINISTRIES



The youth and their families helped pack food for Feed My Starving Children on January 24. During our session we helped pack 101 boxes that held 21,816 meals. This is enough food to feed 59 children for one year. The supplies to put together the meals cost \$6,326.64. We are honored to be able to help.

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. We raise money for the trip by selling "stock" so watch for us on the patio in the coming months.

We continue to meet the second and fourth Sundays of the month after church for a meal, devotion 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 on January 7 using *The Book of Daniel, 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 start a new quarterly in March which offers 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.

United Women in Faith



The United Women in Faith would like to thank all of the soup makers and soup buyers. Also, thank you to those that donated money to our Souper Bowl Sunday Scholarship Drive. Because of your generosity the New Song UWF will be able to fund two \$500 scholarships this year. A little bit from each of us can make such a difference!

Thank you for your support.
Sally Hamill, UWF President



**Souper
Bowl**



Announcements

FARMER'S MARKET

The Farmer's Market meets at New Song on Saturdays from 3 pm until 7 pm or when it gets too dark. Come check it out!

LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER!

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.

FOREVER FRIENDS

Want to get out of the house? Meet with friendly people? Come to Forever Friends at noon on **Thursday, March 12.**
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.

BOOK BUDDIES

We will be discussing *Where the Lost Wander* by Amy Harmon on **Monday, March 23 at 1:00 pm** at church.
We welcome all readers, women and men.

Upcoming books include:

- 4/27 *The Frist Ladies* by Marie Benedict
- 5/25 *The Ones We Wait For* by Michael V. Ivahov
- 6/22 *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan

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 .

COLORING GROUP

The Meet, Greet and Color Group will meet on the third 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 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.

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 MARCH

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

In March, please pray for:

Gila Mountain UMC, Yuma, AZ
Haven UMC, Jerome, AZ

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

Marketing & Web Manager: Amy Tarleton

Accompanist: Alex Lunardi

Facilities Manager: Nicolas Hermans

2025
 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
 06/18 Ione Bartells
 06/27 Gary Kelley
 07/08 Terry Locke
 07/09 LeRoy Messenger
 07/16 Jerome K. Johnson

IN LOVING MEMORY



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



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.



3/4 Donn Bishop	3/18 Pam McNeal Laue
3/4 Erin Whitaker	3/18 Gail Long
3/6 Natasha Rojas (Tasha)	3/22 Joan Shoop
3/9 Geri Simmons	3/22 Emily Cox
3/10 Emma Petrie	3/23 Joseph Alves
3/11 Howard Shapiro	3/23 Richard Messenger
3/14 Val Castle	3/27 Linda Messenger
3/15 Patrick Ferguson	3/29 Sue Wilson
3/17 Leslie Oredson	

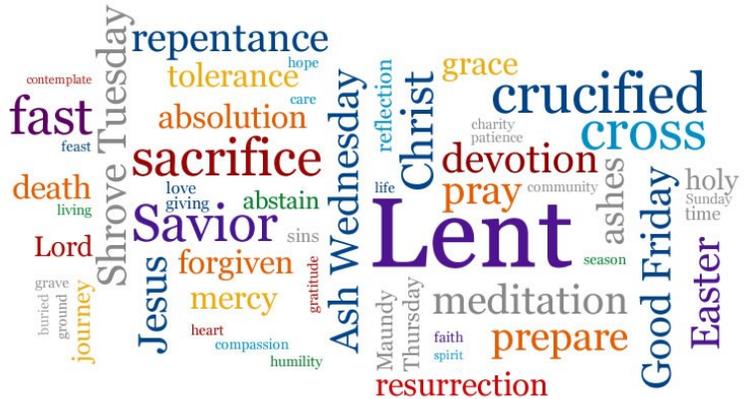


3/8 Pastor Steve & Pam Laue
 3/11 Phill & Arlene Brown
 3/12 Ron & Joanne Croft
 3/23 Cynthia & Mitchell Czech



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Communion, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbells 12:30 pm Worship 2 pm It's Their Mission @ 1st Glendale</p>	<p>2 9 am UWF Leaders 10:15am Prayer Force 6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>3 9:45 am Serve at St. Mary's 1 pm Staff Meeting 4 pm Trustees</p>	<p>4 5 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 1pm Grief Group 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>5 10 am Hospitality 1 pm Knit Wits</p>	<p>6 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 1 pm SPRC</p>	<p>7 3 pm Farmers' Market</p>
<p>8 9 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbell, 11:45 am Youth</p>	<p>9 10:15 am Prayer Force 10:30 am Caregiver Support 6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1 pm Staff Meeting 5:30 pm Animals 4 God Meet, Read</p>	<p>11 9 & 10:30am Women's Bible Study 1pm Grief Group 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>12 10 am Children's Ministry 12 pm Forever Friends</p>	<p>13 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study</p>	<p>14 10 am UWF Meeting 3 pm Farmers' Market</p>
<p>15 9am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbells 4 pm Marriage Fellowship</p>	<p>16 10:15 am Prayer Force 6 pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>17 9:45 am Serve at St. Mary's 1 pm Staff Meeting 4 pm Finance</p>	<p>18 9 & 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 1pm Missions 1pm Grief Group 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>19 1 pm Coloring Group 2 pm Care Council</p>	<p>20 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 10 am Alzheimer's Speaker, Part 1</p>	<p>21 8 am Eve's Cookers 3 pm Farmers' Market</p>
<p>22 9 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School 11:45 am Handbells 11:45 am Youth 12 pm Spiritual Gifts</p>	<p>23 10:15 am Prayer Force 10:30 am Caregiver Support 1 pm Book Buddies</p>	<p>24 10 am Church Council</p>	<p>25 9 & 10:30 am Women's Bible Study 1pm Grief Group 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm Praise Team</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 8 am Men's B'fast and Bible Study 9 am Pew Buddies 10 am Alzheimer's Speaker, Part 2</p>	<p>28 10 am Handbell Practice 3 pm Farmers' Market</p>
<p>29 9 am Adult SS 10:30 am Worship, Kids, Youth, PreK Sunday School</p>	<p>30 10:15 am Prayer Force</p>	<p>31</p>				<p>Blue = Offsite Activities</p>

March 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 April newsletter articles by March 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