

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior, and my God."

Psalms 42:5

No matter what is going on in God's world, we will be delivered from the darkness if we but look to the light of Jesus Christ in the midst of the storms.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 4:00 pm
Sunday 9:30 am



Arizona Broadway Theater

Thursday, October 28th
Dinner at 5:30pm
Show at 7:30pm

If you missed signing up for this show in 2019, a few tickets will be available!

Please contact

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Vicki Tate (309-335-3141)
Johnvickitate@gmail.com

SCRIPTURE FOR SERVICE

Lesson: James 3:1-12
Psalm 116:1-9
Gospel: Mark 8:27-38

MIDWEEK MESSAGES

September 8, 2021

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JUDITH

Greetings,

One of the many blessings of serving at ALC is hearing the stories of parishioners. Most of us have arrived at this beautiful time of our life when we have a lengthy book filled with many chapters of our pilgrimage on earth.



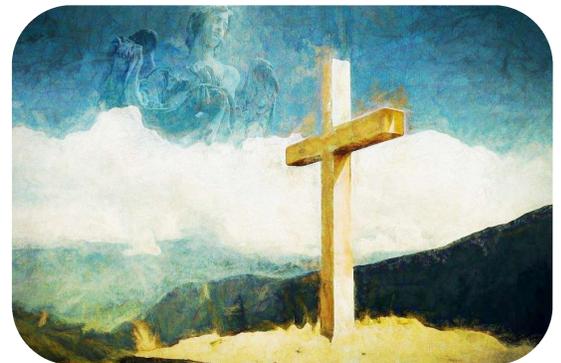
Some chapters are filled with pure joy and some with difficult struggles. The book of life on earth will come to a glorious ending when Jesus takes us home to our eternal rest.

In the meantime, let's rejoice with one another as our dear sister in Christ has shared in this published article in the following LifeStyle Options publication. Charlene Young is such an active parishioner at ALC, and I thank her for sharing this gift.

When she shared this love story with me, I was so touched that I asked her if I could share it with you. Perhaps most of us will not have our stories published, but we can share them with those we love and our legacy of life and love on earth will be carried on for generations to come.

Our life struggles and joys become part of who we are. We grow spiritually when we embrace them as reality and live them fully in the moment rather than running away from our feelings. We heal from pain when we let go of the past, but we may remember in a way that reflects our recovery. Recovery from struggles can bring us great joy as we celebrate the victory over them. If we never felt pain, would we really be able to celebrate being delivered from it?

Jesus was in great pain often and ultimate pain when he gave his life on the cross for us. Many have suffered and died for us during our life on earth. Our military is an example of that. I often say Jesus died on the cross for me, but I do not have to literally crawl up and be hung on a cross. I will have burdens throughout life that will be lessened as I share those with God and the angels God surrounds me with.



I hope you are reminded of this in your life as you read this message and the story that Charlene authored. We can all be angels of God walking the walk with one another as we travel near and far growing through the joys and sorrows of life.

I love you and God loves you. Let's continue to support one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. Sometimes that may even be with tough love as we nudge each other into a better life. We cannot save one another, but we can help one another and leave the saving up to God.

I hope you are touched by the journey of love that Charlene has shared with us. My heart is filled with love for each of you as I encourage you to continue sharing your life with others.

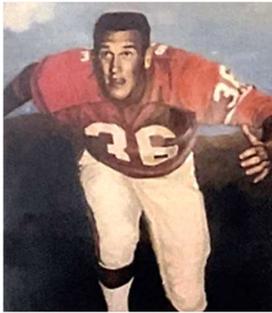
Gratefully,



Pastor Judith



A LOVE STORY: ALZHEIMER'S AND FAITH **From The LifeStyle Options Publication**



They met on a blind date and married a year later. Charlene, a former flight attendant, Sun Cities CareGiver's employee and ambassador for Arizona Broadway Theater, and Jim, a former pro football player with the Denver Broncos, enjoyed traveling and spending time with family and friends. They shared a strong faith and love for almost sixteen blissful years before the first signs of trouble began. They had discussed the possibility that Jim's history as a pro football player and the head injuries he suffered might affect his long-term health. When the symptoms began and the forgetfulness became more pronounced, spending time alone was suddenly too risky.

The doctor performed a series of tests and diagnosed him with Alzheimer's. It was the doctor who suggested that Jim stop driving. Gifting the car to a family member and Charlene's gentle assurances that she would be his driver helped alleviate the feeling of loss. Jim's memory impairment progressed quickly. He forgot people, places, experiences and even forgot to eat, but he always recognized Charlene until his final days.

They leaned heavily on family, friends, and their religion as the Alzheimer's worsened daily. The support of Hospice of the West, along with her strong faith and supportive family and friends, helped Charlene immensely on the journey to the final good-bye. Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's can be unpredictable, painful and a lonely experience, but those deep-set beautiful memories of our loved ones that are embedded in our hearts will last forever.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The cost for Altar Flowers will be increasing to \$40 effective today, September 8th, to cover the cost for delivery. Thank you for your understanding.

GRIEF JOURNEY SUPPORT GROUP resumes Tuesday, Sept 14th at 1:30pm in the Lounge. Each six-week cycle includes these topics: Getting in Touch, Telling Your Story, Self-Care, Relationships, Special Days, and A New Normal. You're welcome to join us at any time.

Linda Shirck, Facilitator